ITALIAN PIANIST AND COMPOSER LUDOVICO EINAUDI BRIDGES CLASSICAL AND POPULAR MUSIC GENRES IN HIS SYMPHONY CENTER DEBUT

Tuesday, October 24, 8 p.m.

CHICAGO—Italian pianist and composer Ludovico Einaudi makes his Symphony Center debut in a Symphony Center Presents Special Concert on Tuesday, October 24, at 8 p.m., as part of his 2017 North American tour, “Essential Einaudi.” Einaudi’s compositions contain elements of minimalist, ambient, world and pop music, resulting in a unique style that defies genres and draws diverse audiences.

The program includes material from Einaudi’s ninth album, *Elements*, which topped classical charts in 42 countries and was the first classical release in 23 years to break the top 15 on Britain’s mainstream charts when it was released in 2015. *Elements* was conceived as an homage to Einaudi’s former teacher and mentor, the avant-garde and electronic music composer Luciano Berio. Additionally, the program features music from Einaudi’s film scores including *Intouchables*, *Mommy* and others. Accompanying Einaudi on stage for this performance is Alberto Fabris on bass and electronics; Riccardo Laganá on percussion; Federico Mecozzi on violin, keyboard and guitar; Redi Hasa on cello; and Francesco Arcuri on guitar, percussion and waterphone.

Born in Turin, Italy, Einaudi trained as a classical composer and pianist at the Milan Conservatory before embarking on a career that has spanned more than two decades and earned him international recognition. In addition to releasing a series of chart-topping albums with sales exceeding 750,000 copies, he has become one of the most streamed classical composers with more than 2.3 million followers on Spotify. In 2013, he was the first classical performer to play the iTunes Festival on a lineup that included pop artist Lady Gaga and rapper Kendrick Lamar. He also received an OMRI (Ordine al merito della Repubblica Italiana)—the senior order of Knighthood bestowed by the Italian Republic—in recognition of his musical contributions.
In keeping with his belief in music as a source of spiritual elevation in a troubled world, Einaudi also is a passionate advocate for environmental causes including the preservation of the shrinking Arctic. In June 2016, he took an expedition on the Greenpeace ship *Arctic Sunrise*, which carried messages from eight million people around the globe calling for governments to protect the Arctic from oil drilling and destructive fishing. Upon the ship’s arrival in an Arctic bay, Einaudi debuted *Elegy for the Arctic*, composed for the occasion, alone with a Steinway on a pontoon raft while massive glaciers cracked and dropped into the Arctic Ocean in the background. The performance was captured on video and has received nearly five million views on YouTube.

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**

**Tuesday, October 24, 8 p.m.**  
**Ludovico Einaudi: Essential Einaudi**

Ludovico Einaudi, conductor and piano  
Alberto Fabris, bass and electronics  
Riccardo Laganá, percussion  
Federico Mecozzi, violin, keyboard and guitar  
Redi Hasa, cello  
Francesco Arcuri, guitar, percussion and waterphone

Tickets: $50-$110

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**Featured Artists for this Performance:**  
**Ludovico Einaudi**

**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.

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.