MODERN CROONER MAX RAABE BRINGS HIS PALAST ORCHESTER TO SYMPHONY CENTER

New Program Let’s Do It Celebrates American Standards and Music of Germany’s Golden Twenties

Friday, April 20, at 8 p.m.

CHICAGO—Max Raabe and his Palast Orchester return to Symphony Center in a Symphony Center Presents Special Concert on Friday, April 20, at 8 p.m. The debonair singer and his 12-piece ensemble—who have become familiar to American audiences through PBS specials—present a program adapted from their acclaimed new show Let’s Do It, showcasing popular music from both sides of the Atlantic from the time period between the two world wars in their signature, suave style.

Let’s Do It features Max Raabe and the Palast Orchester in stylish, original takes on music of the 1920s and ’30s. Together they perform familiar American Songbook standards like “Stormy Weather,” “Over My Shoulder” and Cole Porter’s “Let’s Do It,” alongside their German counterparts by Kurt Weill and others. Raabe and his band also bring their sophisticated musical sensibilities to modern selections through their charming original songs and arrangements of contemporary hits.

Born in Lünen, Germany, Max Raabe moved to Berlin in his early twenties to study opera. In the mid-1980s he founded the Palast Orchester with some fellow students. In addition to his performance and international touring schedule with the Palast Orchester, Raabe gives concerts with pianist Christoph Israel, with whom he released the album Über’s Meer (Over the Sea) in 2010. Raabe has been honored with numerous awards including the 2000 ECHO Klassik for his interpretation of “Mack the Knife,” the cultural prize of his hometown Lünen in 2007 and the Order of Merit of the State of Berlin in 2012. Since 2007, Raabe has served as honorary emcee for the annual Berlin opera gala of the German AIDS Foundation. He has also
performed for many charity events including the Opera Village project in Africa, Yehudi Menuhin’s Live Music Now and the Berlin City Mission.

The Palast Orchester was founded in 1986 by Max Raabe and a group of fellow classmates in order to play music from the period of Germany’s Golden Twenties. In 1992, they topped the German charts with their song “Kein Schwein ruft mich an” (Why Does No One Call) and have since grown their following with two albums on which they interpreted modern pop songs in the style of the ’20s. They have recorded several albums and DVD concert recordings including two Gold and Platinum awarded albums, Küssen kann man nicht alleine (One Cannot Kiss Alone) and Für Frauen ist das kein Problem (For Women It’s No Problem), as well as their 2000 ECHO Klassik award-winning album Charming Weill. Raabe and the Palast Orchester tour regularly to the United States and Canada, and previous tours have also taken them to China, Japan, Italy, Russia, Hungary, Poland, the Netherlands, France, England and, most recently, to Scandinavia and the Baltics.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented 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. 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 20, 8:00 p.m.
Max Raabe and Palast Orchester
Let’s Do It

Max Raabe, vocals
Cecilia Crisafulli, violin
Thomas Huder, trumpet and vocals
Michael Enders, trumpet, vocals and musical director
Jörn Ranke, trombone, viola and vocals
Bernd Frank, tenor sax and clarinet
Johannes Ernst, alto sax and clarinet
Sven Bährrens, alto sax and clarinet
Rainer Fox, baritone sax, clarinet and vocals
Fabio Duwentester, drums and percussion
Bernd Hugo Dieterich, bass and sousaphone
Ulrich Hoffmeier, guitar, banjo and vocals
Ian Wekwerth, piano

Tickets: $35 - $85

Featured Artists for this Performance:
Max Raabe
Palast Orchester
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.