PINK MARTINI RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER

China Forbes on Lead Vocals with Chicago Fashion and Style Icon
Ikram Goldman as Special Guest Vocalist

Friday, March 16, at 8 p.m.

CHICAGO—Pink Martini returns to Symphony Center in a Special Concert on Friday, March 16, at 8 p.m. Bandleader and pianist Thomas Lauderdale pairs the eclectic instrumentals of his one-of-a-kind, 11-piece ensemble with the witty and elegant vocals of lead singer China Forbes, as well as Ikram Goldman, who appears as special guest vocalist for this concert.

Pink Martini’s performance features their signature mix of classical, jazz and golden-era pop music to create a sound that is lighthearted yet refined. The program features selections from their latest album, Je Dis Oui!, alongside some of their most irresistible hits including “Amando mio,” “Je ne veux pas travallier” and “Hey Eugene.”

In a cameo appearance is Chicago fashion icon Ikram Goldman, who made her local debut singing with Pink Martini on the tune “Al Bint Al Shalabiya,” or “the girl from Shalabiya,” at the CSOA’s Corporate Night concert in June 2017. Several years after Goldman suggested to Pink Martini bandleader Thomas Lauderdale that the band add this song—originally made famous by Lebanese singer Fairouz—to their repertoire, Lauderdale invited Goldman to record it with the band for their 2017 release, Je Dis Oui!

Drawing inspiration from music from across the globe, pianist Thomas Lauderdale founded Pink Martini in 1994 to play at political fundraisers for causes such as civil rights, environmental sustainability, affordable housing and public broadcasting. A year later, Lauderdale invited Harvard classmate China Forbes to join the band, whose 1997 debut album, Sympathique, quickly garnered the group international recognition and awards. Pink Martini performs its multilingual repertoire on concert stages and with orchestras throughout Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Northern Africa, Australia, New Zealand, South America and North America. They
have collaborated or performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Pops and Cleveland Orchestra, as well as NPR's Ari Shapiro, civil rights activist Kathleen Saadat and Rufus Wainwright.

Forbes has enjoyed a successful singing career both as a solo artist and with Pink Martini. She and Lauderdale have written many of Pink Martini’s most beloved songs including “Sympathique,” with its famous chorus (“I don’t want to work”), “Clementine,” “Let’s Never Stop Falling in Love,” and most recently “A Snowglobe Christmas.” Her original song “Hey Eugene” is the title track of Pink Martini’s third album, and many of her songs can also be heard on television and film. With Pink Martini, Forbes has appeared on “The Late Show with David Letterman,” “Late Night with Conan O’Brien,” “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” and “Later with Jools Holland.” She performs songs in more than 12 languages and has performed with Michael Feinstein, Jimmy Scott, Georges Moustaki, Henri Salvador, Saori Yuki, Faith Prince and Carol Channing.

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, March 16, 8 p.m.
Pink Martini
China Forbes, vocalist
Ikram Goldman, special guest

Program to be announced from the stage

Tickets: $40 - $85

Featured Artists for this Performance:
Pink Martini
Ikram Goldman

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](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.