



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI Music Director

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News

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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NAMES WILLIAM WELTER AS PRINCIPAL OBOE

Welter Assumes Post in First Concerts of the 2018/19 Season

CHICAGO— Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti and CSO Association (CSOA) President Jeff Alexander announce the appointment of William Welter as Principal Oboe of the CSO, effective September 17, 2018.

Welter has previously appeared with the CSO as guest principal oboe under Muti during subscription concerts in March and June of 2018 before being selected for the position in June 2018. He has also performed as a guest musician with the Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, New York Philharmonic and as guest principal oboe of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

A native of Omaha, Nebraska and raised in Crescent, Iowa, William Welter is a 2016 graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Richard Woodhams, the longtime Principal Oboe of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Welter recently completed an Artist Diploma at the Oberlin Conservatory under the instruction of Robert Walters. He also studied privately with Eugene Izotov, former Principal Oboe of the CSO and current Principal Oboe of the San Francisco Symphony and Christopher Philpotts, Principal English Horn of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Welter is an alumnus of the Interlochen Arts Academy, where he studied with Daniel Stolper.

Welter was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center and a past participant at the Aspen Music Festival, Bravo Vail Festival and Music Academy of the West. He also participated in Music from Angelfire by invitation of acclaimed violinist Ida Kavafian.

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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 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, Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Erina Yashima is the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice.

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. 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.