CONDUCTOR DAVID AFKHAM RETURNS FOR PROGRAM OF WORKS BY BEETHOVEN AND DVOŘÁK IN CSO SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

Pianist Nicholas Angelich Makes His CSO Debut in Beethoven’s Emperor Concerto

March 7, 8, 9 & 10

CHICAGO—David Afkham returns to Symphony Center to lead the CSO in subscription concerts on Thursday, March 7, at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, March 9, at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 10, at 3:00 p.m. Pianist Nicholas Angelich joins Afkham and the Orchestra to make his CSO debut as soloist in Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5 in E-flat Major (Emperor) on a program that also includes Beethoven’s Coriolan Overture and Dvořák’s Symphony No. 7. The program is repeated on Friday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m., at Edman Memorial Chapel as part of the CSO’s concert series at Wheaton College.

The program opens with Beethoven’s Coriolan Overture, Op. 62. Composed for a play of the same name, the music of the overture suggests the drama to come, alternating between tender lyricism and fiery orchestral flourishes. The program continues with Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5, popularly known as the “Emperor” Concerto. The work opens with a brilliant cadenza in the solo piano before introducing a heroic theme in the orchestra. The chorale-like nocturne of the second movement highlights a delicate interplay between muted strings, woodwinds and solo piano before launching directly into the thrilling rondo that concludes the concerto. Completing the program is Dvořák’s Symphony No. 7. Marked in musical character by melodic richness and melancholy, the symphony also includes the influence of the traditional Bohemian music of the composer’s homeland.

German conductor David Afkham is in his fifth season as Principal Conductor of the Spanish National Orchestra and Chorus, and is in high demand as a guest conductor with some of the
world’s finest orchestras and opera houses. He has established a reputation as one of the most sought after conductors to emerge from Germany in recent years. He was the first beneficiary of the Bernard Haitink Fund for Young Talent, and assisted Maestro Bernard Haitink in a number of major projects, including symphony cycles with the Chicago Symphony, Concertgebouw Orchestra and London Symphony Orchestra. He was the winner of the 2008 Donatella Flick Conducting Competition in London, and was the inaugural recipient of the Nestle and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award in 2010. Afkham’s most recent CSO podium appearance was in October 2016.

American-born Pianist Nicholas Angelich began his piano studies at age five with his mother, and gave his first concert with Mozart’s Piano Concerto K. 467 at the age of seven before entering the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris at age 13. He has won numerous awards, including the Second Prize of the R. Casadesus International Piano Competition and First Prize of the Dina Bachauer International Piano Competition, as well as the Victoire of the “Instrumental Soloist of the Year” at the Victoires de la Musique Classique in 2013. Angelich’s 2018/19 season includes appearances with the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montreal, Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia, and the National Symphony Orchestra, and solo recitals in Liège, Alicante, and Paris, among others.

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.

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. CSO tickets for select program are also available through the city’s new Teen Arts Pass (TAP) program. More information available at https://teenartspass.urbangateways.org/.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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The March 8 CSO performance at Wheaton College is generously sponsored by the JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of the DuPage Foundation.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra 

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 9, 2019, 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, March 10, 2019, 3:00 p.m.  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Featured Artist for this Performance:
David Afkham, conductor
Nicholas Angelich, piano

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 pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the 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 61 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. 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.