



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**FORMER CSO MUSIC DIRECTOR DANIEL BARENBOIM
MAKES HIGHLY ANTICIPATED RETURN TO SYMPHONY CENTER IN
NOVEMBER FOR CSO AND SCP CONCERTS**

NOVEMBER 1–5, 2018

**Barenboim Leads CSO in Smetana's *Má vlast* in
Subscription Concerts (November 1-3)**

**Barenboim Leads the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in Symphony Center
Presents Special Concert that Launches Multi-city U.S. Tour (November 5)**

CHICAGO— Chief Conductor of the Staatskapelle Berlin and former Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Daniel Barenboim makes his highly anticipated return to Symphony Center to conduct the Orchestra for the first time since 2006. Barenboim leads the CSO in subscription concerts on [Thursday, November 1, at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Friday, November 2, at 1:30 p.m.](#) and [Saturday, November 3, at 8:00 p.m.](#) with a concert program featuring Smetana's landmark set of symphonic poems, *Má vlast*. Barenboim returns to the podium to lead the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in a Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Special concert on [Monday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m.](#), which launches a multi-city U.S. tour and features Iranian cellist Kian Soltani and Israeli violist Miriam Manasherov as soloists in Strauss's *Don Quixote* followed by a performance of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5.

From [November 1-3](#), Barenboim leads the CSO in Smetana's *Má vlast (My Country)*. The Czech composer's ultimate musical statement was also a focal point of acclaimed 2017 performances for Barenboim with both the Vienna Philharmonic and Staatskapelle Berlin.

Written in the 19th century when nationalistic music was being championed by composers in Russia, Finland, Spain and his own beloved Bohemia, Bedřich Smetana composed the six

symphonic poems in *Má vlast* in several stages beginning in 1874. The complete work, which was premiered in 1882, evokes settings that depict moments in Bohemia's history as well as its distinct landscapes and vivid legends.

The first symphonic poem, *Vysehrad*, (*The High Castle*) refers to the large castle along the Vltava river that marks the entrance to the city of Prague. *Vltava* (*The Moldau*) is the most popular and most frequently performed of the symphonic poems in this set. It portrays Bohemia's mighty river, represented musically by the delicate melodic lines of the flutes and clarinets paired with pizzicato strings that suggest sunlight reflecting off the water. *Sárka*, the folk heroine and female warrior who rebels against male authority is powerfully depicted in music of the third symphonic poem. The more familiar poem, *Zčeských* (*From Bohemia's Fields and Groves*), portrays the calm and peaceful beauty of the Czech countryside. The final two poems in the set refer to moments in the history of the Hussite Rebellion, a 15-century movement dedicated to Bohemian independence. *Tábor*, the name of the city south of Prague that was a rebellion strong hold, includes musical material from a majestic Hussite chorale. *Má vlast* concludes with *Blaník*, which is named after a mountain where the Hussite warriors reputedly slept until called upon to defend their land. The final section of the work suggests a triumphant hymn that points toward a rebirth of the Czech nation.

The CSO has performed symphonic poems from Smetana's *Má vlast* throughout its history. Notably, the CSO's founding music director Theodore Thomas led the Orchestra's first performances of three poems from the set. Daniel Barenboim also recorded *The Moldau* with the CSO in a 1977 Deutsche Grammophon release. *Má vlast* will be performed without intermission.

On [Monday, November 5, at 7:30 p.m.](#), Barenboim leads the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra in a concert that officially launches a multi-city U.S. tour. Founded by Barenboim and the late Palestinian literary scholar Edward Said in 1999, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra is an ensemble of young musicians from Israel, Palestine and Arab countries that embraces a philosophy of equality, cooperation and justice for all. The program opens with Strauss's *Don Quixote*, the richly orchestrated tone poem that includes a solo cello in the role of *Don Quixote* and a solo viola in the role of the knight-errant's faithful companion Sancho Panza, with the orchestra depicting other characters and imagery from their many adventures. The second half of the program features Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, which opens with a dark yet stately theme presented by the clarinet. The rest of the movement's soaring lyrical themes appear amidst powerful orchestral sections. An exquisite french horn solo is featured in the symphony's vast and lyrical second movement followed by an elegant waltz and a joyful and thrilling finale.

In addition to his CSO and SCP concerts, Barenboim participates in a special event at the Chicago Humanities Festival with members of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. The event includes a performance by the musicians followed by a conversation with Barenboim and veteran broadcaster Richard Steele at the Harris Theater of Music and Dance on [November 4, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.](#)

Since his conducting debut in 1967 in London with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Daniel Barenboim has been in great demand with leading orchestras around the world including the Vienna and Berlin philharmonics, ensembles with which he has worked for decades. He was chief conductor of the Orchestre de Paris (1975–1989) and music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (1991–2006). Since 1992, Barenboim has been general music director of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, from 1992 to August 2002 also serving as artistic director. In the fall of 2000, the Staatskapelle Berlin named him chief conductor for life. With the Staatskapelle, Barenboim has presented large-scale opera and concert repertoire projects including Wagner's 10 major works and major cyclical projects including the symphonies and orchestral songs of Mahler (together with Pierre Boulez) and the operatic and orchestral works of Berg, Schoenberg and Debussy. He also served as music director of the Teatro alla Scala in Milan between 2011 and 2014 where he presented new productions of *Tristan und Isolde* and the *Ring Cycle*.

Barenboim has a significant performance history in Chicago, beginning with his Orchestra Hall recital debut at age 15 in 1958. He went on to make his debut as a piano soloist with the CSO in 1965 and marked his CSO conducting debut in 1970 in tour and subscription programs that featured Beethoven's Symphony No. 3. He also made his first of many commercial recordings with the Orchestra in 1970, an all-Dvořák release featuring cellist Jacqueline du Pré as soloist. His farewell concerts as music director of the CSO took place in June 2006 and featured the ninth symphonies of Mahler, Bruckner and Beethoven.

In 1999, Barenboim, together with Palestinian literary scholar Edward Said, established the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which performs at Symphony Center for the first time in November 2018. The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra defies fierce political divides in the Middle East by bringing together Arab and Israeli musicians, and has evolved into a legendary orchestra that has made appearances in Europe, Asia and the Americas. In 2005, the West-Eastern Divan performed in Ramallah, marking the orchestra's first event in the Occupied Territories. When open war broke out in Gaza in 2009, Barenboim began the Divan's performances by reading a statement which said: "We aspire to total freedom and equality between Israelis and Palestinians, and it is on this basis that we come together today to play music." UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon named Daniel Barenboim UN Messenger of Peace in September 2007 and designated the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra as a United Nations Global Advocate for Cultural Understanding in February 2016. Since 2015, talented young musicians from the Middle East have also studied at the Barenboim-Said Akademie in Berlin, another initiative of Daniel Barenboim that has grown to welcome more than 90 students to the academy annually. The academy building also houses the Pierre Boulez Saal, designed by Frank Gehry, which opened in March 2017 and is now integral to the musical life of Berlin.

Barenboim has also been recognized with many international awards and distinctions including Japan's Praemium Imperiale prize, the Great Cross of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany and an honorary doctorate from Oxford University. He was also named a United Nations Ambassador for Peace. A published author of several books, his most recent is *Music is Everything and Everything is Music: Memories and Insights*.

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.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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The November 5 performance is generously sponsored by Ling Z. Markovitz and Michael C. Markovitz and the Jentes Family Foundation.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

[Thursday, November 1, 2018, 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Friday, November 2, 2018, 1:30 p.m.](#)

[Saturday, November 3, 2018, 8:00 p.m.](#)

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Daniel Barenboim, conductor

SMETANA *Má vlast*

Tickets: \$39-268

**Symphony Center Presents
Special Concert**

[Monday, November 5, 2018, 7:30 p.m.](#)

West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

Daniel Barenboim, conductor

Miriam Manasherov, viola

Kian Soltani, cello

R. STRAUSS *Don Quixote*

TCHAIKOVSKY *Symphony No. 5*

Tickets: \$40-130

Featured Artists for this Performance:

[Daniel Barenboim, conductor](#)

[West-Eastern Divan Orchestra](#)

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 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.