



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**DANISH CONDUCTOR THOMAS SØNDERGÅRD MAKES CSO DEBUT  
ON SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM OF WORKS BY SIBELIUS,  
RACHMANINOV AND TCHAIKOVSKY**

**Alexander Gavrylyuk Makes CSO Debut as Soloist in  
Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1**

**November 15, 16, 17 & 18**

CHICAGO—Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, music director of the Royal Scottish National Opera, makes his CSO debut in a set of subscription concerts on [Thursday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m.](#), [Saturday November 17 at 8:00 p.m.](#), and [Sunday, November 18 at 3:00 p.m.](#) Søndergård leads the CSO in Sibelius' Nocturne and Ballade from *King Christian II*, Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 1, and Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 featuring soloist Alexander Gavrylyuk in his CSO debut. The program is also presented on [Friday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m.](#) at Edman Memorial Chapel as part of the CSO's annual concert series at Wheaton College. This program also features a free [preconcert lecture](#) that begins at 6:15 p.m. in Armerding Recital Hall on the Wheaton College campus.

The program opens with two selections from Sibelius' Suite from *King Christian II*, originally written as incidental music for a play. The Nocturne suggests a love scene with its yearning melodies passed between the strings and the winds. The music of the Ballade evokes the despair of the King over the loss of his beloved with its virtuosic string passages and powerful brass moments. The program continues with Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. One of the composer's landmark works, its sweeping and familiar melody in the opening bars sets the dramatic tone for the rest of the concerto. The program concludes with Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 1, written when the composer was only 22. Rachmaninov uses a particular theme, the *Dies irae* from the traditional mass for the dead, across each movement of the symphony that evokes a vast emotional landscape informed by Russian musical traditions.

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Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård is Music Director of Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Søndergård also served as Principal Conductor of BBC National Orchestra of Wales (BBCNOW), and prior to this, as Principal Conductor and Musical Advisor of the Norwegian Radio Orchestra. He has conducted many leading orchestras and is recognized as a leading advocate for the music of Carl Nielsen. Søndergård was awarded the prestigious Queen Ingrid Foundation Prize for services to Music in Denmark, and was nominated for a *Gramophone* Award in 2011.

Pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk has received international critical acclaim for his stunning virtuosity and electrifying performances. Hailed for his compelling interpretations, Gavrylyuk has appeared with leading orchestras all over the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Moscow Philharmonic, and others. He has also appeared at many of the world's foremost festivals, and his debut performance with the BBC Scottish Symphony made it onto the BBC Proms 2017 "Editor's Top 10 Picks" list. He took the coveted Gold Medal, as well as the award for Best Performance of a Classical Concerto, at the renowned Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Masters Competition, and has won numerous other awards. Gavrylyuk is currently Artist in Residence at Chautauqua Institution, where he leads the piano program as an artistic advisor.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented concerts can be purchased by phone at **800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000**; online at [cso.org](http://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.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

The appearance of Alexander Gavrylyuk is made possible by The Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The November 16 CSO performance at Wheaton College is generously sponsored by the JCS Fund of the DuPage Foundation.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

[Thursday, November 15, at 8:00 p.m.](#)  
[Saturday, November 17, at 8:00 p.m.](#)  
[Sunday, November 18, at 3:00 p.m.](#)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Alexander Gavrylyuk**, piano

SIBELIUS            Nocturne and Ballade from *King Christian II*  
                                 Suite  
TCHAIKOVSKY      Piano Concerto No. 1  
RACHMANINOV     Symphony No. 1

Tickets:            \$42-\$239

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Wheaton College Series**  
Edman Memorial Chapel  
401 E. Franklin St. Wheaton, IL

[Friday, November 16, 2018, 7:30 p.m.](#)  
**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Thomas Søndergård**, conductor  
**Alexander Gavrylyuk**, piano

SIBELIUS            Nocturne and Ballade from *King Christian II*  
                                 Suite  
TCHAIKOVSKY      Piano Concerto No. 1  
RACHMANINOV     Symphony No. 1

Tickets: \$50-85

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**Featured Artist for this Performance:**

[Thomas Søndergård, conductor](#)  
[Alexander Gavrylyuk, 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 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. 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.