



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

## CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR THE 2018/19 SEASON

CHICAGO (January 30, 2018)—Riccardo Muti, Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Jeff Alexander, President of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA), announce the programming for the CSO and Symphony Center Presents (SCP) 2018/19 season—the Orchestra’s 128th season and Muti’s ninth as its music director.

Programming in the 2018/19 season is inspired by a major historical event, the power of narrative in orchestral music, and an exploration of celebrated masterworks in the repertoire interpreted by Muti and other esteemed conductors.

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I on November 11, 1918. This historic moment offers an opportunity for reflection and contemplation of pathways that may lead to a more peaceful future. Composers across different musical eras have found compelling ways to honor the victims of war and celebrate the triumph of the human spirit through the healing and transformative power of music. Several programs throughout the season connect listeners to works that remain relevant in a modern world with their timeless messages of hope and peace, as well as a new work written to commemorate this significant anniversary.

“Music is a necessity of the spirit. It acts as a balm that allows us to remember, to heal and ultimately to grow,” notes Muti. Nowhere is this sentiment more apparent than in Verdi’s *Requiem*, a work that Muti returns to in conjunction with the Armistice anniversary in November with the CSO and Chicago Symphony Chorus (CSC), under the direction of Duain Wolfe, and a roster of distinguished soloists. Recognized with two Grammy Awards for the 2010 CSO Resound release of the Verdi *Requiem*, Muti and these assembled musical forces offer the first performances of this landmark work at Symphony Center since the live-streaming performance which marked the bicentennial of Verdi’s birth on October 10, 2013.

In the opening program of the 2018/19 season, Muti leads the CSO, the men of the CSC and bass Alexey Tikhomirov in Shostakovich’s *Symphony No. 13 (Babi Yar)*. Featuring the vivid poetry of Yevgeny Yevtushenko, Shostakovich created this work of great power and beauty in response to a devastating wartime tragedy.

The season-long series of programs that explore reflection and remembrance continues with an October program that officially commemorates the anniversary of the Armistice. This program, presented with support from Colonel (IL) Jennifer N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Retired), president and founder, Pritzker Military Foundation and the President and CEO of TAWANI Enterprises, Inc., includes the CSO’s world premiere of *Threnos*, a new

work by French composer Bruno Mantovani in a performance led by Marin Alsop. Commissioned by the CSO and the Pritzker Military Foundation, the new work is the focal point of a larger set of programs and events, including Symphony Center Presents concerts, tied to the Armistice centennial that also include pre-concert lectures, archival displays and musical performances at Symphony Center, the Pritzker Military Museum & Library and other offsite locations in Chicago.

Beyond this, several subscription concert programs throughout the 2018/19 season highlight significant works that offer a spirit of hope and peace including Nielsen's the *Inextinguishable* Symphony, plus William Schuman's Ninth Symphony and Mozart's Requiem—both led by Muti—and *A Requiem in Our Time*, a 20th-century work for brass and percussion by Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara led by Mikko Franck.

“Maestro Muti has programmed a series of powerful works from the symphonic repertoire with a meaningful thread of peace and reflection throughout the 2018-2019 season,” adds CSOA President Jeff Alexander. “We are pleased to share these life-enriching performances with our audiences along with our impactful education and community engagement programs in Chicago, and on tour in the U.S. and Asia.”

A number of programs in the 2018/19 season also explore the power of narrative in music. Stories and texts in this diverse range of works spring vividly to life in ballet scores, symphonic poems, programmatic symphonies, works for chorus and vocal soloists and opera scores.

These program highlights include Hindemith's Symphony, *Mathis der Maler*, based on the life of German renaissance painter Matthias Grünewald; Stravinsky's suites from *The Firebird* and *Pulcinella*, the latter with participation by dancers from the Joffrey Ballet in a new artistic collaboration with the CSO; Berlioz's lyric scene for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, *The Death of Cleopatra*, in performances led by Muti and featuring Joyce DiDonato; Zemlinsky's *The Mermaid* conducted by Emmanuel Krivine; and Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* led by Esa-Pekka Salonen and featuring bass John Relyea and mezzo-soprano Michelle DeYoung. The season culminates with a program that highlights human drama on an epic scale in concert performances of Verdi's *Aida* led by Muti with the unmatched team of the Orchestra and Chorus and featuring internationally celebrated soprano Krassimira Stoyanova in the title role.

The 2018/19 season also includes an exploration of some of the great orchestral masterworks in the repertoire interpreted by Muti and other guest conductors. Highlights include Muti leading Respighi's *Pines of Rome* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade*; former CSO Music Director Daniel Barenboim leading Smetana's ultimate symbol of Czech nationalism, *Má vlast*; former Principal Conductor Bernard Haitink leading Bruckner's Symphony No. 6; Michael Tilson Thomas leading Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6; Esa-Pekka Salonen leading Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra*; David Afkham leading Dvořák's Symphony No. 7; and Jakub Hrůša leading Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9.

In 2018/19, the CSO continues its tradition of touring including an international tour to Asia and domestic tour to Florida. Since its founding in 1891, the Orchestra has made 60 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents. The CSO also maintains a distinguished legacy of recording; recordings have earned 62 Grammy® awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, further contributing to the Orchestra's international reputation. Global engagement also continues through online streaming content and a digital magazine available at [csosoundsandstories.org](http://csosoundsandstories.org).

This season, Muti leads 10 weeks of subscription concerts in seven residencies with the Orchestra in Chicago, with appearances in September, October and November 2018, and February, March, May and June 2019.

Other program highlights of note for 2018/19:

- Muti leads a special CSO and Civic Orchestra of Chicago side-by-side community concert in Millennium Park on September 20 to launch the celebration marking the centennial seasons of the Civic Orchestra and the CSO's series of concerts for children established in the 1919/20 season by second Music Director Frederick Stock.
- Daniel Barenboim, the CSO's ninth music director from 1991-2006, returns in November to conduct the Orchestra for the first time since 2006 for performances of Smetana's *Má vlast* on subscription concerts. Barenboim extends his Chicago visit to lead a Symphony Center Presents special concert on November 5 featuring the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which he co-founded.
- The CSO welcomes the debuts of a number of acclaimed guest conductors to the podium including Fabien Gabel, Edward Gardner, Giancarlo Guerrero, Matthew Halls, Thomas Søndergård and Simone Young.
- Conductor Bramwell Tovey returns in January to lead a program that includes a selection of American songs by Copland, Corigliano, Ives and others, featuring celebrated American baritone Thomas Hampson.
- The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO introduces a new Chicago Public Schools (CPS) free ticket and transportation reimbursement program for its school matinee concerts for school groups as part of the celebration of the 100th season of the CSO's concert series for children.
- The CSO welcomes The Joffrey Ballet as it makes its CSO debut in performances that feature world premiere choreography set to the music of Stravinsky's *Dumbarton Oaks Concerto*. This program also features Christopher Wheeldon's ballet *Commedia* set to the music of Stravinsky's Suite from *Pulcinella*.
- Four members of the CSO appear as soloists this season including Concertmaster Robert Chen; Piccolo Jennifer Gunn; Principal Flute Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson, in his solo debut with the Orchestra; and Bass Trombone Charles Vernon, who performs the world premiere of a new concerto by American composer James Stephenson.

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) brings today's leading artists and ensembles to Chicago. Highlights of the Chamber Music series include the first performance together in Chicago for violinist Itzhak Perlman with pianist Evgeny Kissin, a performance featuring Pinchas Zukerman with cellist Amanda Forsyth and the Jerusalem Quartet in a program of late romantic string sextets. The Piano series welcomes Beatrice Rana and Behzod Abduraimov for debut performances in a season that also sees return appearances of Evgeny Kissin, Murray Perahia and the piano duo of Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Tamara Stefanovich. The Orchestras series features a

much-anticipated return to Symphony Center for the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra led by their chief conductor Daniele Gatti in a program of works by Brahms and Strauss.

The programs of the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2018/19 complement the CSO’s subscription programs and demonstrate the commitment of Music Director Riccardo Muti and the CSOA to educate audiences, nurture young musicians, provide broad access to the Orchestra, and to serve the city of Chicago through music. 2018/19 marks the centennial season of the CSO’s flagship education programs: the CSO concert series for children and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, both founded during the 1919/20 season by second Music Director Frederick Stock. Numerous special programs and events will take place throughout 2018/19 to celebrate this historic milestone. To launch the season the Civic Orchestra performs side by side with the CSO led by Riccardo Muti in Millennium Park on September 20. New this season, CPS elementary school student groups have access to free admission and school bus transportation for CSO School Concerts. Full details for this new program are to be announced in spring 2018.

Taking inspiration from the CSO’s season-long focus on music that offers a time for reflection and a message of peace, the Negaunee Music Institute’s *Initiative for a More Peaceful Chicago* includes numerous projects that use music to create peace in our community. Building on last season’s “Concert for Peace” at St. Sabina Church, this year’s programming engages young people incarcerated by the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, teen parents as part of the Lullaby Project, and other community-based organizations that work to reduce gun violence.

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# Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs

## Concerts with Riccardo Muti

Riccardo Muti leads 10 weeks of subscription programs during the 2018/19 season. In addition, he conducts the annual Symphony Ball gala program and a free community concert, tour performances and a return appearance at Wheaton College, as part of the Orchestra's third annual concert series at that venue.

His programs offer wide-ranging repertoire by Beethoven; Beethoven; Berlioz; Bizet; Brahms; Cherubini; Gershwin; Hindemith; Mozart; Prokofiev; Respighi; Rimsky-Korsakov; Schuman; Shostakovich; Johann Strauss Sr.; James M. Stephenson; Tchaikovsky; Verdi; Vivaldi; and Wagner.

Muti leads the CSO, the Chicago Symphony Chorus and soloists in several choral masterworks, including Mozart's Requiem and Verdi's Requiem, as well as Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 (*Babi Yar*). Muti explores lesser-known orchestral works leading the CSO's first performances of William Schuman's Ninth Symphony and Prokofiev's Sinfonietta. Muti caps the season with a concert performance of the grandest of Verdi's operas, *Aida*.

This season, Muti works with returning soloists Mitsuko Uchida, David Fray, Joyce DiDonato and the CSO's own Jennifer Gunn and Charles Vernon, as well as several artists who make their CSO debut including bass Alexey Tikhomirov and soprano Vittoria Yeo.

- Muti's first residency of the season features Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 (*Babi Yar*). This powerful work for bass, men's chorus and orchestra features poems by Yevgeny Yevtushenko written in response to the World War II massacre of the Jewish population of Kiev. The program also includes the CSO's first performances of Prokofiev's rarely-heard Sinfonietta. (September 21, 22 and 25)
- In his second week of concerts, Muti leads the CSO in a program of masterworks including Mozart's Overture to *Don Giovanni* and Symphony No. 40, followed by Rimsky-Korsakov's orchestral showpiece *Sheherazade*. (September 27, 28 and 29)
- In October, Muti leads a program featuring Hindemith's Symphony, *Mathis der Maler*, with its central message of the importance of freedom of artistic expression and Beethoven's Overture to *Egmont*, which musically depicts a character who stands against oppression. David Fray also joins the CSO as soloist for Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. (October 4 and 5)
- First performing and recording Verdi's Requiem in 2009, and performing it again in 2013, to mark the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth, Muti along with the CSO and Chicago Symphony Chorus return to this work as part of the season-long focus on works of peace and reflection. This unmatched team is joined by an all-star quartet of soloists including soprano Vittoria Yeo in her CSO debut, tenor Piotr Beczala in his subscription concert debut, and mezzo-soprano Daniela Barcellona and bass Dmitry Belosselskiy in return appearances. (November 8, 9 and 10)
- Muti leads Mozart's Requiem with the CSO and Chorus this season, pairing it with American composer William Schuman's Ninth Symphony (*Le fosse Ardeatine*), a work that commemorates the World War II

massacre of civilians by German soldiers in 1944. (February 21, 22 and 23, 2019)

- In March, Muti leads a program that features the CSO's celebrated piccolo player Jennifer Gunn in concertos by Vivaldi and contemporary American composer Ken Benshoof. Bookending the program are operatic overtures to Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* and Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, with Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 completing the program. (March 14, 15 and 16, 2019)
- Muti began his tenure as CSO Music Director in 2010 with a performance in Millennium Park that featured Respighi's *Pines of Rome*. In May, he once again leads the CSO in this colorful portrait of the Italian city, pairing it with another musical postcard, Bizet's *Roma*. Also on the program are Cherubini's Overture to *Anacréon*, an opera beloved by Berlioz, whose own *The Death of Cleopatra* is performed featuring mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato. (May 2, 3, 4 and 7, 2019)
- In the second week of his May residency, Muti and the Orchestra explore works by Mozart and Stravinsky. Mozart's joyous Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* contrasts with the darker shadows of his Piano Concerto No. 20, featuring the incomparable Mitsuko Uchida as soloist. Suites from two contrasting Stravinsky ballets, *Apollon musagète* and *The Firebird*, close the program. (May 9, 10 and 11, 2019)
- Muti's final residency of 2018/19 features a varied program of works by Americans past and present along with Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 3. The program opens with Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and also includes the world premiere of a new concerto for CSO Bass Trombone Charles Vernon by James M. Stephenson, a Chicago-based composer renowned for his brass music. (June 13, 14 and 15, 2019)
- In past seasons Muti has brought his mastery of the operas of Giuseppe Verdi to Chicago with universally lauded concert performances of *Otello* in 2009, *Macbeth* in 2013 and *Falstaff* in 2016. Muti caps the 2018/19 season with the CSO's first subscription concert performances of the grandest of Verdi's operas, *Aida*, featuring the assembled forces of the CSO and Chorus and soprano Krassimira Stoyanova in the title role. (June 21, 23 and 25, 2019)

In addition, Muti conducts two, one-night-only special concerts:

- This year's Symphony Ball program celebrates the timeless appeal of the waltz and heartfelt melodies. Alongside waltzes from Josef Strauss and Johann Strauss Sr., Muti conducts the Intermezzo from Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24 featuring internationally renowned pianist David Fray. (October 6)
- The Civic Orchestra of Chicago celebrates its centennial season in 2018/19. To celebrate, Civic musicians will share the stage with the CSO in a side-by-side performance at the Orchestra's annual, free community concert, led by Maestro Muti, in Millennium Park on September 20. The program features works by Rossini, Verdi and Tchaikovsky.

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

### **Muti and the CSO on Tour**

Muti leads the CSO in a 2019 tour to Asia, marking their second trip to Asia together and the Orchestra's ninth Asia tour. The Orchestra performs two concerts each in Taipei, Shanghai and Beijing, four concerts in Tokyo, and one concert in Osaka. Tour programs include works by Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, and, in Japan, Verdi's Requiem.

- In Taipei, Shanghai and Beijing, Muti and the Orchestra perform Brahms's First and Second symphonies, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade*. (January 19 and 20, 2019–Taipei, Taiwan; January 22 and 23, 2019–Shanghai, China; and January 25 and 26, 2019–Beijing, China)
- In Tokyo, Muti and the Orchestra perform Brahms's First and Second Symphonies, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade*. In addition, they perform Verdi's Requiem with the Tokyo Opera Singers chorus and soprano Vittoria Yeo, mezzo-soprano Daniela Barcellona, tenor Francesco Meli and bass Dmitry Belosselskiy. (January 30 and 31, February 2 and 3, 2019)
- Muti and the Orchestra perform at Osaka's Festival Hall with program information to be announced at a later date. (February 4, 2019)

Next season, Muti and the CSO perform in West Palm Beach, Naples and Miami as part of a February 2019 domestic tour to Florida. The Florida tour includes return appearances at the Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr. Concert Hall in West Palm Beach, Florida on February 26, presented by the Kravis Center; at the Knight Concert Hall in Miami on February 27, presented by the Adrienne Arsht Center; and at Hayes Hall in Naples on February 28 and March 2 presented by Artis—Naples. The Florida tour programs include Beethoven Symphonies No. 5 & 7, Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 3, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade*.

### **A Time for Reflection—A Message of Peace**

"Lest we forget," the familiar words from the Rudyard Kipling poem *Recession* associated with Veteran's and Remembrance Day observances, encourage reflection and motivate us to strive for a peaceful future. The 2018/19 season features works from the orchestral repertoire that remain relevant with timeless messages of hope and peace.

The effects of World War I were seared into the lives and memories of a generation. We remember the great sacrifices of those who served and the long-term effects of war by commemorating the centennial of the Armistice of World War I (November 11, 1918) through a number of special concerts and programs between October 15–21, 2018, and beyond with support for these presentations from Colonel (IL) Jennifer N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Retired), president and founder, Pritzker Military Foundation and the President and CEO of TAWANI Enterprises, Inc.

During this week—and throughout the 2018/19 season—the CSO, Symphony Center Presents and Negaunee

Music Institute offer programs aligned with this theme in events at Symphony Center and across Chicago including a free concert with “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, vocal recitals at the Pritzker Military Museum & Library and at Mayne Stage, pre-concert talks, historical displays and more.

Subscription concerts highlighting this season-long programming theme are as follows:

- The captivating power and tradition of the Russian men’s chorus inform Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 13 (*Babi Yar*). Muti leads the CSO and men of the CSC along with Russian bass Alexey Tikhomirov in this work which pays tribute to the 100,000 victims of the World War II massacre at Babi Yar. (September 21, 22 and 25)
- Guest conductor Marin Alsop leads the CSO in works written during a time of war by 20<sup>th</sup>-century composers Frank Bridge and Aaron Copland, as well as Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 3 and the world premiere of *Threnos*, a new, CSO-commissioned work to commemorate the World War I Armistice by French composer Bruno Mantovani. The composer notes that the name of the piece comes from a Greek word for a funereal lamentation, but that he “made the opposite choice,” in this music which he describes as “a celebration that is at once violent, virtuosic and extroverted.” (October 18, 19 and 20)
- In the days before the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice of World War I on November 11, Muti leads the assembled forces of the CSO and Chorus and soloists in Verdi’s Requiem. (November 8, 9 and 10)
- Guest conductor Edward Gardner makes his subscription concert debut leading a program of works created during war-torn times. The gripping intensity of Nielsen’s Symphony No. 4 (*The Inextinguishable*), written during the First World War, is offset by the balm of Strauss’s reflective *Four Last Songs*, performed in these concerts by soprano Erin Wall. Wagner’s Overture to *Rienzi* depicts a popular uprising against a tyrannical regime. (December 6, 7, 8 and 11)
- Bramwell Tovey leads a program infused with American patriotism including Ives’s iconic Variations on “America” and a selection of American songs by Copland, Corigliano, Daugherty, Damrosch and Ives performed by internationally renowned baritone Thomas Hampson (January 10, 11 and 12, 2019)
- Muti leads the CSO and Chorus and distinguished soloists in Mozart’s Requiem on a program that also includes the CSO’s first performances of American composer William Schuman’s Ninth Symphony (*Le fosse Ardeatine*). The first composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music, Schuman was inspired to write this work after a visit to the World War II monument honoring the victims of a massacre in Italy. (February 21, 22 and 23, 2019)
- Rautavaara’s *A Requiem in Our Time*, a 20<sup>th</sup>-century work for brass and percussion dedicated to the composer’s mother, a victim of the Second World War, is part of a program led by Finnish conductor Mikko Franck. The program also features Hilary Hahn in Sibelius’s Violin Concerto and Rachmaninov’s Second Symphony. (May 16, 17, 18 and 21, 2019)

SCP programming connected to this season-long theme are as follows:

- One of our country's premier military musical ensembles, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, performs in a free concert. (October 24)
- Renowned pianists Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Tamara Stefanovich appear in an SCP Piano recital program that features Messiaen's *Visions de l'Amen*, written in 1943 following the composer's release from a prisoner of war camp. (October 28)
- The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, led by its co-founder Daniel Barenboim, brings talented young musicians from across the Middle East together in this unique ensemble. (November 5)
- The Soweto Gospel Choir appears in the program "Songs of the Free," which honors the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth. (November 16)
- French pianist Cédric Tiberghien returns for his second SCP Piano series appearance in a program of works composed during World War I and designed to commemorate the Armistice centennial. (December 2)

### **Chicago Symphony Chorus**

The Chicago Symphony Chorus (CSC), under the leadership of Chorus Director and Conductor Duain Wolfe, celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the 2017/18 season. For 2018/19, the CSC appears with the Orchestra four times under the baton of Riccardo Muti, as well as with guest conductors Andrés Orozco-Estrada and Matthew Halls. Season highlights include performances of both Mozart's and Verdi's requiems and Handel's *Messiah*, all in anticipation of season-finale concert performances of Verdi's *Aida*, which includes some of opera's greatest choruses.

- Muti opens the season with Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 (*Babi Yar*), a stark and beautiful work for bass, men's chorus and orchestra with text by Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko. (September 21, 22, and 25)
- Colombian conductor Andrés Orozco-Estrada returns to conduct Mahler's Symphony No. 3, a celebration of the natural world. The women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus join the CSO and mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor and the Anima – Young Singers of Greater Chicago for this performance. (October 11, 12, 13 and 14)
- Muti, the CSO and Chorus earned two Grammy Awards for their landmark recording of Verdi's Requiem released on the CSO Resound label in 2010. They returned to the work in 2013 for the bicentennial of Verdi's birth. Now, this unmatched team of musicians and roster of exceptional soloists return to one of the great masterworks in the choral repertoire. (November 8, 9 and 10)

- After near sell-out performances of Handel's *Messiah* in 2015, this treasured choral work returns for the holiday season led by renowned English Handelian, Matthew Halls, in his CSO debut. Joining the CSO and Chorus are a distinguished roster of soloists including soprano Amanda Forsythe, mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, tenor Nicholas Phan and, in his CSO debut, baritone Joshua Hopkins. (December 20, 21, 22 and 23)
- The power and beauty of Mozart's Requiem soars under the baton of Muti with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and tenor Saimir Pirgu and—in their CSO debuts— soprano Benedetta Torre, contralto Sara Mingardo and bass Mika Kares (February 21, 22 and 23, 2019)
- In past seasons, the Chicago Symphony Chorus has performed as part of concert performances of Verdi's *Falstaff*, *Macbeth* and *Otello*, which have been hailed by the *Chicago Tribune* as “exceptional,” the Chorus singing with what *The New York Times* called “unforced yet robust sound.” The Chorus and Orchestra, led by Muti, cap the season in thrilling fashion with concert performances of one of opera's greatest vocal spectacles, Verdi's *Aida*. (June 21, 23 and 25, 2019)

### **Wheaton College Series**

The CSO continues its commitment to audiences in Chicago's western suburbs in 2018/19. Now in its third season, the series of three concerts at Wheaton College's Edman Memorial Chapel in Wheaton, IL has regularly attracted capacity audiences and enthusiastic applause. Three-concert subscriptions and individual concerts are available. The CSO's concerts at Wheaton College are generously sponsored by the JCS Fund of the DuPage Foundation.

- Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård makes his CSO debut with a program that includes works by Sibelius and Rachmaninov, as well as Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with Alexander Gavrylyuk as soloist in his CSO debut. (November 16)
- German-born guest conductor David Afkham conducts a program of dramatic works by Dvořák and Beethoven. He is joined by American pianist Nicholas Angelich, who appears for the first time with the CSO in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5. (March 8, 2019)
- Muti leads a program that pairs Respighi's *Pines of Rome* with Bizet's *Roma*, and also features Cherubini's Overture to *Anacréon* and Berlioz's *The Death of Cleopatra*, with acclaimed American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato. (May 3, 2019)

### **MusicNOW**

Created in December 1998 to explore the richness and variety of contemporary classical music, the CSOA's MusicNOW series is curated by the CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence. After a celebratory 20th season in 2017/18, the series enters its 21st year with new artistic leadership to be announced in spring 2018.

Four concerts at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance are performed by CSO musicians and guest performers. MusicNOW concerts in 2018/19 will take place on four Mondays: October 22, November 19, April 8, 2019 and May 20, 2019.

Leadership support for MusicNOW is generously provided by the Irving Harris Foundation, the Julian Family Foundation, the Sally Mead Hands Foundation, Cindy Sargent and the Zell Family Foundation.

### **World Premieres**

The CSO gives the world premiere performances of several new works, including a premiere by The Joffrey Ballet, during subscription concerts at Symphony Center in the 2018/19 season.

- Bruno Mantovani, director of the Paris Conservatory and one of Europe's most performed contemporary composers, creates his first work for the CSO. Mantovani's new work, *Threnos*, is the focal point of the CSO's World War I Armistice commemoration program led by guest conductor Marin Alsop. The work is commissioned by the CSO and the Pritzker Military Foundation.

"The term *Threnos* came into existence in Ancient Greece and designates a funereal lamentation—be it musical or literary," notes Mantovani. "If modern composers such as Igor Stravinsky or Krzysztof Penderecki have given this title to their works, the Renaissance constitutes the golden age for this contemplative lament. Generally, a *Threnos* is a slow piece, even a static one. I have made the opposite choice. In fact, here it entails a celebration that is at once violent, virtuosic and extroverted. The military quality comes from the use of four snare drums which create a continuum extended to the orchestra through string tremolos and woodwind *bisbigliandi*. The texture is thus very dense, even in the most ethereal sections, and leans towards white noise, even saturation."

(October 18, 19 and 20)

- The CSO welcomes the Joffrey Ballet for its CSO debut in performances that feature world premiere choreography (choreographer to be announced at a later date) set to the music of Stravinsky's *Dumbarton Oaks Concerto*. This program also features Christopher Wheeldon's ballet *Commedia* set to the music of Stravinsky's Suite from *Pulcinella*. (May 30, 31 and June 1, 2019)
- Chicago-based James M. Stephenson, who is among America's most respected composers of brass music, creates a new concerto for Bass Trombone Charles Vernon, commissioned by the CSO. Funding for the Bass Trombone Concerto comes from the Edward F. Schmidt Family Commissioning Fund. Muti conducts the premiere of this new work in a program that also includes Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 3. (June 13, 14 and 15, 2019)

## First Performances

In addition to world premieres, the CSO performs 11 works for the first time during the 2018/19 season:

- BENSHOOF Concerto in Three Movements for Piccolo and Orchestra (March 14, 15 and 16, 2019)
- BRIDGE *Lament* (October 18, 19 and 20)
- CORIGLIANO One Sweet Morning from *One Sweet Morning* (January 10, 11 and 12, 2019)
- DAMROSCH *Danny Deever* (January 10, 11 and 12, 2019)
- DAUGHERTY Letter to Mrs. Bixby from *Letters from Lincoln* (January 10, 11 and 12, 2019)
- LISZT *Prometheus* (June 6, 7, 8 and 11, 2019)
- PIAZZOLLA *Sinfonía Buenos Aires*, Op. 15 (May 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2019)
- PROKOFIEV Sinfonietta, Op. 5 (September 21, 22 and 25)
- RAUTAVAARA *A Requiem in Our Time* (May 16, 17, 18 and 21, 2019)
- SCHUMAN Symphony No. 9 (*Le fosse Ardeatine*) (February 21, 22 and 23, 2019)
- STILL *In Memoriam: The Colored Soldiers Who Died for Democracy* (January 10, 11 and 12, 2019)

## Debuts

Several guest artists make debuts with the CSO during the 2018/19 season:

- American-born pianist Nicholas Angelich, recognized for spellbinding performances of music by Brahms, Liszt and Beethoven, has worked with some of the finest orchestras in the world. He makes his CSO debut in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5. (March 7, 9 and 10, 2019)
- Celebrated for his performances of Verdi since his 2006 debut as Duca in *Rigoletto*, Polish tenor Piotr Beczala makes his subscription concert debut in Verdi's Requiem with Muti and the CSO. (November 8, 9 and 10)
- Born in Scotland of Italian heritage, violinist Nicola Benedetti makes her subscription concert debut in Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2. An internationally acclaimed soloist, Benedetti is regularly recognized for her captivating performances. (December 13, 14 and 15)
- French conductor Fabien Gabel makes his CSO debut in a program featuring works by Bartók and Debussy, as well as Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 2 with Emanuel Ax. (April 18, 19, 20 and 23, 2019)
- Former music director for the English National Opera and chief conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic, Edward Gardner makes his CSO subscription concert debut in a program of works by Wagner, Strauss and Nielsen. (December 6, 7, 8 and 11)

- Ukrainian-born, Australian pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk has been called “one of the greatest discoveries of the past decade” (*De Telegraaf*). Widely acclaimed for his electrifying and virtuosic performances, he makes his CSO debut under Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård in Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1. (November 15, 16, 17 and 18)
- English pianist Benjamin Grosvenor has been making waves across the world for attentive, probing performances of a wide range of repertoire. He makes his CSO debut in Chopin’s Piano Concerto No. 1. (April 11, 12 and 13, 2019)
- Costa Rican-born conductor Giancarlo Guerrero is the Grammy Award-winning music director of the Nashville Symphony and the Wrocław Philharmonic. He has appeared with many of America’s finest orchestras and makes his CSO debut with a program of colorful music in the Spanish and Argentinian tradition. (May 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2019)
- English conductor Matthew Halls makes his debut with the CSO in performances of Handel’s *Messiah*. Halls is in demand for energetic interpretations of baroque music, and his performances of the *Messiah* have been called “hypnotic and absorbing” and “varied and adventurous” (*Twin Cities Pioneer Press*). (December 20, 21, 22 and 23)
- Canadian baritone Joshua Hopkins was recently chosen by *Opera News* as one of 25 artists poised to become a major force in the coming decade. He is already known to Chicago audiences for his recent debut in Weinberg’s *The Passenger* at Lyric Opera. (December 20, 21, 22 and 23)
- A native of Iceland, Stefán Ragnar Höskuldsson was appointed to the Erika and Dietrich M. Gross Principal Flute Chair in 2015, and with these performances of Mozart’s Flute Concerto in D Major he makes his debut as a soloist with the Orchestra. Höskuldsson was previously principal flute of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. (November 29 and 30, December 1 and 4)
- The Joffrey Ballet has been committed to taking world-class, artistically vibrant work to a broad and varied audience for more than half a century. The company makes a much-anticipated debut with the CSO in a special program that features the dancers in acclaimed choreographer Christopher Wheeldon’s ballet *Commedia* set to the music of Stravinsky’s Suite from *Pulcinella* and a world premiere work set to the music of Stravinsky’s *Dumbarton Oaks* Concerto. The choreographer for the world premiere will be announced at a later date. (May 30, 31 and June 1, 2019)
- Finnish bass Mika Kares makes his CSO debut in Mozart’s Requiem under the baton of Maestro Muti. Already distinguished for his performances at La Scala, Vienna State Opera, and Covent Garden, he was nominated for a Grammy for his role as Daland in a recording of Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman*. (February 21, 22 and 23, 2019)

- Celebrated throughout Europe for her “poise and expression” (*Bachtrack*) and a voice that is “firm and richly colored” (*Gramophone*), veteran contralto Sara Mingardo makes her CSO debut in Mozart’s Requiem. (February 21, 22 and 23, 2019)
- Danish conductor and music director designate for the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Thomas Søndergård, makes his CSO debut in a program that includes works by Sibelius, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. (November 15, 16, 17 and 18)
- Russian bass Alexey Tikhomirov, who has previously performed under the baton of Muti in Rome, Salzburg and Vienna, makes his CSO debut in Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 13 (*Babi Yar*). (September 21, 22 and 25)
- At just 22 years old, Italian soprano Benedetta Torre sang the role of Sacerdotessa in *Aida* at the 2017 Salzburg Festival under the direction of Riccardo Muti. This season, Torre makes her CSO debut with Muti in Mozart’s Requiem. (February 21, 22, and 23, 2019)
- Guitarist Pablo Sáinz Villegas has been praised for the exuberance and passion of his playing, capturing the playfulness and drama of his homeland’s rich musical heritage. Sáinz Villegas makes his CSO debut in Rodrigo’s *Concierto de Aranjuez*. (May 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2019)
- Korean soprano Vittoria Yeo makes her CSO debut in Verdi’s Requiem. Widely renowned in Europe, Yeo is widely recognized for her portrayal of roles in operas of Verdi, Puccini and Mozart. (November 8, 9 and 10)
- Australian conductor Simone Young was artistic director of the Hamburg State Opera and music director of the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra from 2005 to 2015. Renowned for her interpretations of Wagner, Strauss and Bruckner, Young makes her CSO debut with these performances. (June 6, 7, 8 and 11, 2019)

### **Returning Guest Conductors**

Guest conductors returning to the CSO podium in 2018/19 include:

- German-born guest conductor David Afkham, who made his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2016, returns with a program of dramatic works. The program includes Beethoven’s *Coriolan* Overture, Dvořák’s Seventh Symphony and Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5 with Nicholas Angelich as soloist in his CSO debut. (March 7, 8, 9 and 10, 2019)
- Returning to the CSO after her critically acclaimed subscription debut in 2015, American conductor Marin Alsop leads a program that commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice of World War I. Featured works include a new work written by French composer Bruno Mantovani for this occasion and

works by Frank Bridge and Aaron Copland, who were composing during times of war. (October 18, 19 and 20)

- Daniel Barenboim, the CSO's ninth music director from 1991 to 2006, returns for the first time in more than a decade to lead the Orchestra in Smetana's *Má vlast* ("My country"). Barenboim, who recently celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, leads this set of six symphonic poems that serves as a musical depiction of the composer's homeland and includes *The Moldau*. (November 1, 2 and 3)
- Finnish conductor Mikko Franck leads a program featuring Rachmaninov's Second Symphony and Sibelius's Violin Concerto, with Hilary Hahn as soloist. Rautavaara's *A Requiem in Our Time* opens the program. (May 16, 17, 18 and 21, 2019)
- Bernard Haitink, who was the CSO's principal conductor between 2006 and 2010, makes an anticipated return to Symphony Center. A renowned Bruckner interpreter, Haitink previously led the CSO in the composer's Fourth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth symphonies. Now, he leads the CSO in Bruckner's Symphony No. 6 on a program that also includes Beethoven's Second Piano Concerto featuring Paul Lewis. (October 25, 27 and 30)
- Following his auspicious CSO debut in 2017 that was called "a highlight of this music season—idiomatic, exciting and richly characterized" (*Chicago Classical Review*), Czech conductor Jakub Hrůša returns to lead a program that includes Dvořák's Violin Concerto and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9. (April 4, 5 and 6, 2019).
- In February, Spanish-born conductor Pablo Heras-Casado leads an all-Russian program featuring Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 (*Winter Dreams*) and Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 3 with Simon Trpčeski in his first CSO appearance at Symphony Center since 2008. (February 14, 16 and 17, 2019)
- Following his debut with the CSO in 2016, French National Orchestra Music Director Emmanuel Krivine returns to lead a performance of Zemlinsky's *The Mermaid*, based on Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*. Pianist Benjamin Grosvenor makes his debut with the CSO in the graceful First Piano Concerto by Frederic Chopin, and Berlioz's electrifying *Roman Carnival Overture* opens the program. (April 11, 12 and 13, 2019)
- Music director of the Houston Symphony and the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Andrés Orozco-Estrada returns after his acclaimed 2016 CSO debut to lead Mahler's Symphony No. 3. This ode to the glories of the natural world features the women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Anima – Young Singers of Greater Chicago and mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor. (October 11, 12, 13 and 14)
- Conductor Matthias Pintscher is music director of the Ensemble Intercontemporain and principal conductor of the Lucerne Festival Academy, and also directs major orchestras and ensembles around the world. Equally accomplished as conductor and composer, Pintscher makes an auspicious return for

the CSO's new collaboration with the Joffrey Ballet in a program that features Joffrey dancers in a performance of Stravinsky's Suite from *Pulcinella*. (May 30, 31 and June 1)

- Esa-Pekka Salonen, one of the leading conductors of his generation and an award-winning composer, returns for his annual CSO appearance. Salonen's program features Bartók's brooding, dramatic one-act opera *Bluebeard's Castle* with soloists Michelle DeYoung (mezzo-soprano) and John Relyea (bass). Richard Strauss's symphonic poem *Also sprach Zarathustra* completes the program. (March 28, 29, 30 and April 2, 2019)
- Michael Tilson Thomas, who made his CSO podium debut in 1981, returns this season for an all-Russian program that includes Stravinsky's Concerto in D major, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 and Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 with English violinist Nicola Benedetti in her subscription concert debut. (December 13, 14 and 15)
- Bramwell Tovey leads a program of national pride featuring music from both sides of the Atlantic. Elgar's *Enigma Variations* is performed alongside Ives's Variations on "America," which takes inspiration from the popular, unofficial national anthem, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." Celebrated American baritone Thomas Hampson also sings a selection of American songs by Copland, Corigliano, Ives and others on this program. (January 10, 11 and 12, 2019)
- Finnish conductor Osmo Vänskä recently led the Minnesota Orchestra, where he is music director, in their first appearances at Symphony Center in more than 50 years. Making his first CSO podium appearance since 2012, he conducts Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 (*Scottish*) and fellow countryman Sibelius's *Night Ride and Sunrise*. Violinist Vadim Gluzman joins the Orchestra for Bruch's First Violin Concerto. (March 21 and 23, 2019)
- Following his subscription concert debut in 2017, the *Chicago Tribune* praised conductor and violinist Nikolaj Znaider for his "refinement, tonal beauty and deep emotional involvement." Znaider returns to Symphony Center this season to lead the orchestra in Elgar's Cello Concerto and Mahler's Symphony No. 1. (April 25, 26 and 27, 2019)

### **Returning Guest Artists**

Guest artists returning to perform with the CSO during the 2018/19 season's subscription series include:

#### **Piano**

- David Fray (October 4, 5 and 6)
- Daniil Trifonov (October 18, 19 and 20)
- Paul Lewis (October 25, 27 and 30)
- Simon Trpčeski (February 14, 16 and 17, 2019)
- Emanuel Ax (April 18, 19, 20 and 23, 2019)

- Mitsuko Uchida (May 9, 10 and 11, 2019)

### **Violin**

- Robert Chen (November 29, 30, December 1 and 4)
- Vadim Gluzman (March 21 and 23, 2019)
- Lisa Batiashvili (April 4, 5 and 6, 2019)
- Hilary Hahn (May 16, 17, 18 and 21, 2019)

### **Cello**

- Gautier Capuçon (April 25, 26 and 27, 2019)

### **Piccolo**

- Jennifer Gunn (March 14, 15 and 16, 2019)

### **Bass Trombone**

- Charles Vernon (June 13, 14 and 15, 2019)

### **Voice**

- Kelley O'Connor, Mezzo-Soprano (October 11, 12, 13 and 14)
- Daniela Barcellona, Mezzo-Soprano (November 8, 9 and 10)
- Dmitry Belosselskiy, Bass (November 8, 9 and 10)
- Sasha Cooke, Mezzo-Soprano (December 20, 21, 22 and 23)
- Amanda Forsythe, Soprano (December 20, 21, 22 and 23)
- Nicholas Phan, Tenor (December 20, 21, 22 and 23)
- Thomas Hampson, Baritone (January 10, 11 and 12, 2019)
- Michelle DeYoung, Mezzo-Soprano (March 28, 29, 30 and April 2, 2019)
- John Relyea, Bass (March 28, 29, 30 and April 2, 2019)
- Joyce DiDonato, Mezzo-Soprano (May 2, 3, 4 and 7, 2019)
- Saimir Pirgu, Tenor (February 21, 22 and 23, 2019)
- Krassimira Stoyanova, Soprano (June 21, 23 and 25, 2019)

## **CSO at the Movies**

CSO at the Movies offers a unique opportunity to hear performances of great film scores played by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Performances include feature films projected above the stage.

- Program to be announced at a later date. (November 23 and CSO Special Concert performances on November 24 and 25)

- Alfred Hitchcock's *North by Northwest* is one of the most popular spy thrillers of all time. The CSO, conducted by Richard Kaufman, brings Bernard Herrmann's score to life alongside this classic suspense film. (February 15, 2019)
- Concluding the series is the 1951 musical *An American in Paris*, starring Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron and Oscar Levant, based on George Gershwin's classic jazz-inspired work. The CSO is conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos. (March 22, 2019, and a CSO Special Concert presentation on March 24, 2019)

### **CSO Radio**

The weekly CSO Radio Broadcast Series is syndicated nationally to more than 300 radio stations, reaching more than 250,000 listeners each week nationwide via the WFMT Radio Network. In 2015, on-demand streaming led to more than 550,000 plays of music and interviews from CSO Radio programs.

With commentary designed to illustrate the stories of the music and to provide insight into the themes of the CSO's concert season, the series has offered a distinctive approach to classical music radio since 2007. The broadcasts include recorded concert performances by the CSO; produced segments featuring interviews with musicians of the Orchestra, guest artists and composers; and explorations of the CSO's rich catalogue of commercial recordings.

The series is heard locally on 98.7 WFMT in Chicago on Sunday evenings at 8 p.m. For other cities, please check local listings.

A strong online presence at [cso.org/soundsandstories](http://cso.org/soundsandstories) gives music lovers access to additional content, including full-length interviews and commentary, program notes and biographical information.

### **Symphony Center Presents**

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) offers a range of programs highlighting the exceptional artistry of the world's most brilliant musicians. Chicago's premier presenter of international artists and ensembles offers four series—Piano, Chamber Music, Orchestras and Jazz, as well as Special Concerts.

The 2018/19 SCP Jazz series programming details will be announced in April 2018.

### **Symphony Center Presents Piano**

The Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series celebrates keyboard artistry at the highest level in 10 Sunday afternoon concerts each season. Legendary keyboard masters and the next generation of virtuosos perform repertoire from every era, baroque to contemporary. Highlights of the 2018/19 series include the Symphony Center debuts of Beatrice Rana and Behzod Abduraimov, and return appearances of Evgeny Kissin, Maurizio Pollini, Denis Matsuev, Murray Perahia, Cédric Tiberghien, Leif Ove Andsnes and the piano duo team of Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Tamara Stefanovich.

- The exceptional piano duo of Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Tamara Stefanovich bring a characteristically varied program of 20th-century works to the SCP Piano series. Bartók's whimsical *Mikrokosmos* joins the

churning gears of Harrison Birtwistle's new work *Keyboard Engine*, Ravel's *Sites auriculaires*, as well as Messiaen's transfigured *Visions de l'Amen*. (October 28)

- Russian pianist Denis Matsuev, called “ferocious” and “barnstorming” by the Chicago press, returns to the SCP Piano series for a diverse program including Schumann's *Kinderszenen*, Rachmaninov's virtuoso *Corelli Variations*, Chopin's Ballade No. 4 and Prokofiev's Seventh Sonata. (November 11)
- When French pianist Cédric Tiberghien made his Chicago debut in 2015, the *Chicago Tribune* wrote that he played with “power, elegance and controlled intensity.” He returns with a fascinating, thought-provoking program specifically designed to commemorate the anniversary of the World War I Armistice. The program includes works such as Debussy's Etudes, as well as lesser known works by Bridge, Szymanowski, Hindemith and Scriabin, all written between 1914 and 1918. (December 2)
- Celebrated Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes returns with a program that contrasts the nature-inspired music of Schumann's *Blumenstück* and Janáček's *On an Overgrown Path* with the urban revelry of Bartók's Three Burlesques and Schumann's *Carnaval*. Also on the program is Chopin's Ballade No. 3. (January 27, 2019)
- Italian pianist Beatrice Rana makes her anticipated Chicago debut with a program of Chopin Etudes, Ravel's *Miroirs* and a transcription of Stravinsky's *Firebird*. Rana, just 24 years old, has made waves around the world in 2017 with a recording of Bach's “Goldberg” Variations that *The New York Times* praised as “playing of preternatural sensitivity, sophistication and control.” (February 24, 2019)
- Described by *The Times* of London as the “master of all he touches,” Behzod Abduraimov makes his Symphony Center debut with this program of love, longing and death. The Uzbek-born pianist contrasts Liszt's transcription of the “Liebestod” from Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* with Prokofiev's own version of his ballet *Romeo and Juliet*. Liszt's Piano Sonata in B Minor rounds out the program (March 3, 2019).
- Each performance of legendary Italian pianist Maurizio Pollini in Chicago is cause for celebration. More than a half-century into his career, this paragon of musical excellence continues to thrill audiences around the world. (March 31, 2019)
- In the more than 40 years he has been performing on the concert stage, American pianist Murray Perahia has become one of the most sought-after and cherished pianists of our time. (April 28, 2019)
- Russian superstar pianist Evgeny Kissin makes his highly anticipated return to the SCP Piano series. A performer of magisterial virtuosity and probing intelligence, each of Kissin's Chicago appearances is a celebrated event. “Inevitably a torrent of applause ensued, swelling to thunderous rhythmic clapping by the time the pianist had served up three encores” (*Chicago Tribune*). (May 12, 2019)

- Rudolf Buchbinder is renowned across Europe for his interpretations of the Viennese masters, and he returns to the series with a program of three works representative of that tradition, Haydn's Piano Sonata in E-flat Major (Hob. XVI:52), Beethoven's *Waldstein* Piano Sonata and Schubert's Piano Sonata in B-flat Major, D. 960. The appearance of Rudolf Buchbinder is generously sponsored by JS Charitable Trust. (June 9, 2019)

### **Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music**

The Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Chamber Music series brings today's top artists and chamber ensembles to Orchestra Hall for performances in four programs each season. Highlights of the 2018/19 season include the Chicago debut of the all-star duo of violinist Itzhak Perlman and pianist Evgeny Kissin, and the return of violinist Pinchas Zukerman with cellist Amanda Forsyth and the Jerusalem Quartet in a program of string sextets.

- Violinist Pinchas Zukerman joins the acclaimed Jerusalem Quartet and Canadian cellist Amanda Forsyth in their Symphony Center debuts for a compelling chamber music program featuring three late romantic sextets by Richard Strauss, Schoenberg and Tchaikovsky. (October 7)
- Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter and long-time duo partner and pianist Lambert Orkis welcome cellist Daniel Müller-Schott for performances of a new piano trio by Sebastian Currier and Beethoven's "Ghost" trio on a program that also features violin sonatas by Ravel and Poulenc. (March 17, 2019)
- The artistry of violinist Midori and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet come together in a special recital program featuring violin sonatas by Schumann, Fauré, Debussy and Enescu. (April 14, 2019)
- Appearing as a duo for the first time, the brilliant artistry of violinist Itzhak Perlman and pianist Evgeny Kissin is featured in this rare concert event at Symphony Center to conclude the 2018/19 SCP Chamber Music series. (May 1, 2019)

### **Symphony Center Presents Orchestras**

The Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Orchestras series honors a long-standing tradition of welcoming the world's finest orchestras to the stage of Orchestra Hall. In 2018/19, the three-concert series features the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony.

- Conductor Semyon Bychkov, long a CSO favorite for performances of intensity and drama, is the newly-appointed music director of the Czech Philharmonic. He brings the Orchestra back to Symphony Center for its first appearance since 2003 in an all-Czech program featuring music by Luboš Fišer, as well as Dvořák's "New World" Symphony and Cello Concerto with Alisa Weilerstein as soloist. (November 4)
- Hear the legendary Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam in a much-anticipated return to Symphony Center. The orchestra, long considered one of the world's finest ensembles, brings a

program of works core to its repertoire, Brahms's Symphony No. 4 and Strauss' *Ein Heldenleben*, conducted by its chief conductor Daniele Gatti. (February 12, 2019)

- Michael Tilson Thomas brings the celebrated San Francisco Symphony to Symphony Center for a program of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Christian Tetzlaff as soloist and Beethoven's Third Symphony. The concert represents an extraordinary opportunity to see Tilson Thomas conduct the ensemble he has nurtured for nearly 25 years as they undertake their final domestic tour together. (March 26, 2019)

### **Special Concerts**

During the 2018/19 season, the CSO and Symphony Center Presents offer an array of non-subscription special concerts that showcase today's internationally renowned soloists and ensembles in a range of genres—classical, world, folk and jazz—as well as unique holiday programs.

- America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band is known for its devoted musicianship and polished performances. Don't miss this national treasure in what promises to be an inspiring, free performance at Symphony Center. (October 24)
- Founder Daniel Barenboim brings his West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, a groundbreaking ensemble of young Arab and Israeli musicians, to Symphony Center to perform Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, as well as *Don Quixote* by Richard Strauss. In the previous week, he makes his much anticipated return to the CSO for the first time since the completion of his tenure as music director in 2006. (November 5)
- The internationally renowned Soweto Gospel Choir returns to Symphony Center with a program entitled "Songs of the Free" that blends African gospel, spirituals, reggae and popular music, and honors the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nelson Mandela's birth. (November 16)
- In its annual winter concert, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass brings an engaging, entertaining program of brass ensemble favorites and special arrangements. (December 19)
- Making its Symphony Center debut under the baton of music director Enrique Pérez Mesa, the National Symphony Orchestra of Cuba brings a diverse program of works by Cuban composers Ernesto Lecuona and Arnadeo Roldán as well as Spanish composer Manuel de Falla. Three-time Grammy Award-winner Esperanza Spalding joins the orchestra to perform from her widely acclaimed album *Emily's D+Evolution*, as well as her best-known songs. (February 9, 2019)
- Japanese Taiko-drumming troupe Kodo returns to Symphony Center for a dramatic performance full of pulsing rhythms, athletic virtuosity and stirring passion. The group's newest production, *Evolution*,

showcases the perpetual creative evolution of Kodo under the artistic direction of Tamasaburo Bando. (February 28, 2019)

- The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain is a national institution in the UK. The current ensemble, making its Symphony Center debut, has been playing together for more than 20 years, and has given thousands of sold-out concerts across the world. The group's signature repertoire is delightfully varied, spanning genres from classical to jazz to pop and more. (March 20, 2019)
- The greatest living master of the tabla and one of the architects of modern world music, Zakir Hussain returns with his international ensemble of the world's finest percussionists. Continually pushing boundaries and exploring new and old musical traditions, this world-class group makes each of its performances an entirely unforgettable experience. (April 19, 2019)

### **Holiday Programming**

- Called the "world's reigning male chorus" by *The New Yorker*, the Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble Chanticleer makes their annual visit to Chicago with their program "A Chanticleer Christmas" featuring familiar and new seasonal pieces in *a cappella* arrangements. (December 4 and 5)
- Returning for its annual Symphony Center appearance, the Vienna Boys Choir performs a joyful program of traditional and contemporary vocal selections entitled *Christmas in Vienna*. (November 24)
- Ring in the holidays at Symphony Center with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's *Merry, Merry Chicago!* This year's festive program, led by guest conductor Michael Krajewski, features Members of the CSO and vocalist Storm Large. And, the program wouldn't be complete without a visit from a very special guest from the North Pole. (December 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23)

### **NEGAUNEE MUSIC INSTITUTE AT THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Across Chicago and around the world, The Negaunee Music Institute (NMI) connects individuals and communities to the extraordinary musical resources of the CSO. Institute programs and initiatives educate young audiences, train young musicians, provide broad access to the CSO, and serve the city of Chicago through music.

Building on the CSO's rich history of education and community engagement that originated in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Institute was created in 2008 as an umbrella for the CSO's education and engagement programs. Originally called the Institute for Access, Learning and Training, it was renamed in 2014 after the CSO received a generous gift from the Negaunee Foundation that endows the Institute in perpetuity.

In the 2018/19 season, musicians of the CSO participate in a variety of the Institute's programs making direct connections with elementary through high school-aged students, young musicians, and members of diverse communities across Chicago and around the world. In addition to CSO community concerts and an extensive series of School and Family Concerts, CSO musicians offer chamber performances at approximately 50 sites,

including Chicago Public Schools (CPS), as part of the Institute's school partnership programs. CSO musicians also serve as coaches for the Civic Orchestra; work with young musicians as part of the Chicago Youth in Music Festival; lead master classes and perform community chamber concerts during the Orchestra's domestic and international tours; and participate in musical programming for incarcerated youth and other peace projects as part of the Initiative for a More Peaceful Chicago.

## **CSO School and Family Concerts**

Through the CSO's School and Family concerts, the Negaunee Music Institute offers 40 performances each year that reach 150 schools and 40,000 audience members. These concerts for school and family audiences are supported by a suite of school and community partnerships, curricular and preparatory resources, and other activities. Additionally, each season, the CSO opens several of its working rehearsals: three led by Riccardo Muti for an audience of seniors and veterans and four led by guest conductors for groups of high school music students.

The 2018/19 season—the 100th season of the CSO's concert series for children—highlights the longstanding tradition of bringing thousands of young people to Symphony Center each year to experience the Orchestra. A banner season will engage guest conductors who have been integral to the series' success in recent years while educational and artistic collaborations (to be announced at a later date) will enhance audiences' understanding and enjoyment of the Orchestra's performance.

Each program connects with the season long theme "Reflect, Respond, Remix," exploring where great orchestral music comes from, what it means to listeners in the 21st century and how composers, musicians and audiences are the architects of the future.

As part of the celebration of the 100th season of the CSO's concert series for children, and in an effort to make the Orchestra's performances more accessible to Chicago-area students, admission will be free in 2018/19 for CPS student groups. Understanding that transportation costs are also a barrier for many schools, the Institute will also provide transportation reimbursement for CPS schools to travel to/from Symphony Center. Additional information about these offers will be announced in spring 2018.

### ***Reflect, Respond, Remix***

#### **Once Upon a Symphony, for Children Ages 3 to 5**

##### *The Ugly Duckling*

Saturday, November 17 and Monday, November 19

Saturday, December 8 and Monday, December 10

Saturday, January 12

##### *The Boy and the Violin, a Brazilian folktale*

Saturday, March 23 and Monday, March 25

Saturday, April 13 and Monday, April 15

Saturday, May 11

## **Family Matinees (Saturdays), for Children Ages 5 and Up**

### ***The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra***

Saturday, December 1 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Edwin Outwater, conductor

Benjamin Britten's iconic introduction to the orchestra pays tribute to Henry Purcell, one of the greatest composers of the 17th century, while its astonishingly inventive set of variations displays the technical and expressive mastery found in the modern orchestra. Presented for the first time since 2011, this concert is sure to inspire budding musicians throughout the audience.

### ***Flash Back, Flash Forward***

Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Scott Speck, conductor

Imagine a child from 1919 meets a child from 2019. Though their lives are very different, they discover joy and meaning in music in the very same ways. This program reflects on the CSO's century-long tradition of presenting concerts for children, and how composers, musicians and audiences are the architects of the future.

Program to include Mozart's Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, Mendelssohn's "Nocturne" from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Strauss's *On the Beautiful Blue Danube*, by Johann Strauss II.

### ***Pictures from an Exhibition***

Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Thomas Wilkins, conductor

Mussorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*, based on two paintings depicting a Russian artist's travels across Europe, has inspired dozens of arrangements for orchestra. This program leads the audience on a sonic gallery walk, exploring how visual imagery is transformed into sound and the ways that music transforms and transports the listener.

## **School Concerts (Fridays), for Children Grades K-3 and 4-12**

The Institute's School Concerts for student groups in grades K-5 offer weekday performances of each of the Family Matinee programs in the 2018/19 season. These take place on the Friday preceding each Family Matinee concert, on November 30; March 29, 2019 and May 17, 2019. Additionally, a set of concerts for older students, grades 4-8, will be offered on November 28 and 29.

As part of the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> season of the CSO's concert series for children, the Negaunee Music Institute will make CSO school concerts accessible to CPS student groups at no cost and provide significant funding for transportation.

### **Civic Orchestra of Chicago**

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association's prestigious training ensemble for emerging professional musicians, is the only one of its kind affiliated with a major American orchestra. Founded in 1919 by then-Music Director Frederick Stock, the Civic Orchestra is a signature program of the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

This unique alliance, propelled by an expansive vision, has enabled the Civic Orchestra to produce exceptional musical experiences that engage people of all ages and backgrounds leading to the development of an annual concert schedule of more than 30 performances that reach 14,000 audiences members. The 90 young professional musicians of the Civic Orchestra also benefit from the guidance of a world-class faculty that includes the CSO's Music Director Riccardo Muti, musicians of the CSO and the many guest artists and conductors who visit Symphony Center each season.

The Civic's centennial season, which launches with a side-by-side concert with the CSO in Millennium Park conducted by Riccardo Muti, will also include a roster of free performances at Symphony Center as well as at the South Shore Cultural Center and Chicago Public High Schools. It also includes a free chamber music series presented at sites including the National Museum of Mexican Art and Zhou B Art Center, as well as Chicago Park District locations across the city. The roster of guest conductors and concert programs will be announced at a later date.

Select members of the Civic Orchestra are chosen as Civic Fellows who are immersed in additional rigorous training that enhances their participation in the full orchestra. The two-year Civic Fellowship program, introduced in 2013/14 and inspired by the vision of Yo-Yo Ma, has been adopted as a core initiative of the Civic Orchestra. Through an array of experiences designed to build and diversify creative and professional skills, the fellowship program empowers its participants to realize their full potential as artistically excellent, collaborative, civically engaged, and entrepreneurial musicians. The Civic Orchestra's centennial season of performances are sponsored in part by The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation. Learn more at [civiccfellows.org](http://civiccfellows.org).

### **Subscription and Ticket information**

Subscriptions to traditional curated series, as well as create-your-own series for the 2018/19 season of Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Center Presents concerts are now available, offering savings of up to 38% off regular single ticket prices on a wide variety of concert packages, from three to 10 concerts each.

Subscriptions to the CSO's three-concert series at Wheaton College are also now available. Subscribers receive reduced prices on additional tickets when purchased by August 10, 2018, plus ticket exchange options and other subscriber-only benefits, including priority service, pre-paid parking options and discounts on Symphony Center merchandise. Box seat holders and subscribers to curated series also receive unlimited free ticket exchange privileges throughout the season.

Tickets for Special Concerts are currently available for purchase only with subscriptions. Subscriptions may be purchased or renewed by any of five methods: online, by phone, by fax, by mail or in person at the box office. The CSO provides an easy payment plan option for subscribers: subscription purchases made by credit card by

April 5, 2018 are eligible for the payment plan and will be automatically charged in two, three or four monthly installments.

For more information, patrons should call CSO Ticketing Services at 312-294-3000 or 800-223-7114, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; or visit the CSO's website at [cso.org](http://cso.org). Groups of 10 or more who are interested in subscribing to the 2018/19 season should call Symphony Center's Group Sales Department at 312-294-3040.

Patrons also can visit [cso.org](http://cso.org) to order tickets and parking, learn about other nearby attractions and restaurants, purchase CSO merchandise and make donations. For background on the performances and the performers, patrons should go to CSO Sounds and Stories, the CSO's online magazine at [csosoundsandstories.org](http://csosoundsandstories.org). It features program notes, articles, audio and video to enhance patrons' experience before and after the performance.

Symphony Center, home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is at 220 S. Michigan Ave. in Chicago.

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