



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

## CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR THE 2019/20 SEASON

CHICAGO (January 29, 2019)—Riccardo Muti, Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and Jeff Alexander, President of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA), announce programming for the CSO and Symphony Center Presents (SCP) 2019/20 season—the Orchestra's 129th season.

In the new season, the CSO celebrates the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven and Riccardo Muti's 10th anniversary season as music director. Riccardo Muti, the CSO, and artists across the Symphony Center Presents series perform works by Beethoven in a season-long exploration of the individuality, power and genius of this master musician born in 1770, as well as repertoire spanning the 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The tribute includes a cycle of Beethoven's nine symphonies conducted by Riccardo Muti. This will include the first collaboration between Muti and the CSO to perform Beethoven's First, Third (*Eroica*) and Sixth (*Pastoral*) symphonies. The cycle culminates in a season finale performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, a work that the CSO and the Chicago Symphony Chorus last performed with Riccardo Muti to great acclaim and worldwide attention in Orchestra Hall in September 2014. The live concert video from those performances has garnered more than 14 million views on YouTube to date.

"We should all become brothers and sisters. This is the message of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony," says Riccardo Muti. "For two hundred and fifty years, we have tried to find the secret behind the untouchable music of this divine architect and to comprehend the enormity of his timeless philosophical, spiritual, and human message."

The season-long Beethoven celebration also includes performances of the complete cycle of the composer's 32 piano sonatas featuring renowned interpreters as the focus of the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series and three SCP Special Concerts. The piano sonata cycle will be performed by Rudolf Buchbinder, Kirill Gerstein, Igor Levit, Evgeny Kissin, András Schiff and Maurizio Pollini, with Buchbinder and Schiff performing two recitals each. Mitsuko Uchida is also featured on the SCP Piano series with an all-Beethoven program that includes the composer's Six Bagatelles and *Diabelli* Variations.

Other Beethoven masterworks featured on CSO and Symphony Center Presents programs include the Violin Sonata No. 6 performed by Christian Tetzlaff and his Violin Sonatas Nos. 4, 5 (*Spring*) and 9 (*Kreutzer*) performed by Anne-Sophie Mutter; the Violin Concerto performed by Leonidas Kavakos; the First and Fourth piano concertos performed by Paul Lewis; a program of piano trios performed by Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos and Yo-Yo Ma; and the *Namensfeier* Overture and concert aria *Ah! perfido* with soprano Camilla Tilling

RICCARDO MUTI  
Music Director

HELEN ZELL  
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER  
President

YO-YO MA  
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

and conducted by Susanna Mälkki.

“We are extremely pleased to announce the 2019/20 season, which includes such a wide variety of impactful programming to be enjoyed by our loyal as well as new audiences in Chicago, across the country and around the world,” adds CSOA President Jeff Alexander. “We are also excited to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of Maestro Muti as our music director and the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday year of the genius who was and is Ludwig van Beethoven.”

In the new season, Riccardo Muti and guest conductors also introduce works that represent some of the most original and powerful voices of composers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

In 1933, the Orchestra gave the world premiere of African American composer Florence Price’s Symphony No. 1—the first large-scale composition by an African American woman to be performed by a major American orchestra—under the baton of the CSO’s second Music Director, Frederick Stock. In April subscription concerts, Muti conducts the Orchestra’s first performances of Price’s Symphony No. 3, a work of power and originality premiered during a time of war, as well as *Mother and Child* by William Grant Still, a composer who is sometimes called the “Dean” of African American composers.

Muti also introduces new works by leading contemporary composers including three world premieres of CSO—commissioned works by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli, Nicolas Bacri and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Bernard Rands. The CSO also performs the U.S. premiere of Avner Dorman’s new percussion concerto featuring Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh. Additionally, the Orchestra performs music by American composers John Adams, Samuel Barber, Mason Bates, Jennifer Higdon and James Lee III. The MusicNOW series, curated by Mazzoli, also features two world premieres of CSO—commissioned works by composers Wang Lu and Courtney Bryan whose work will be written especially for the Quince Vocal Ensemble and CSO musicians.

In 2019/20, the CSO continues its tradition of touring including a two-concert residency at New York’s Carnegie Hall in November 2019 and concerts in Europe in January 2020, with three performances in Vienna, as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of the famed Musikverein, and appearances in cities including Paris, Cologne and Naples with others to be announced. Muti and the Orchestra also return to Florida in February 2020 for a tour that includes return appearances in West Palm Beach and Naples, as well as a debut appearance for Muti and the CSO together in Sarasota.

Since its founding in 1891, the Orchestra has made 61 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 CSO subscription concerts in five residencies with the Orchestra in Chicago, with appearances in September and November 2019, and February, April, May, and June 2020.

Beyond the CSO's season-long Beethoven 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration and special programs highlighting new and American compositional voices, there are several other noteworthy program highlights:

- Muti leads the annual free "Concert for Chicago" with the CSO on September 24 in a return appearance at Chicago's Lane Tech College Prep High School with a program that includes a suite from Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet* and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 3.
- Continuing his survey of Italian opera masterworks with the Orchestra and Chorus, Muti leads concert performances of Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* with an internationally renowned cast of soloists.
- The Chicago Symphony Chorus, under the leadership of Chorus Director and Conductor Duain Wolfe, appears in four programs with the Orchestra in 2019/20, including Carl Orff's *Carmina burana*, led by guest conductor Alain Altinoglu.
- Soprano Renée Fleming joins piano virtuoso Evgeny Kissin in April 2020 for a one-night-only recital on the Symphony Center Presents series presented in collaboration with the Lyric Opera of Chicago where Fleming serves as Creative Consultant.
- Return appearances by celebrated guest conductors include Valery Gergiev with Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 (*Leningrad*) and Jaap van Zweden in his first CSO appearances since assuming his role as the Music Director of the New York Philharmonic. Also returning are Herbert Blomstedt, Manfred Honeck, Sir Andrew Davis, and Bernard Labadie, who all lead programs featuring their signature repertoire.
- Guest conductor Hannu Lintu makes his CSO debut in a program of music by Sibelius and Nielsen and Julian Rachlin makes his CSO conducting debut in a program featuring Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. Conductors Kirill Karabits and André de Ridder also make subscription debuts.
- The CSO's MusicNOW series enters its second season under the curatorial leadership of Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli with world premieres of two MusicNOW commissioned works by composers Wang Lu and Courtney Bryan and a tribute to the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chicago's own Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM).
- Guest artists making their debuts with the Orchestra include pianists Sunwook Kim, Joseph Moog, Beatrice Rana, and Jan Lisiecki; violinist Ray Chen; countertenor Iestyn Davies; mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano; soprano Elena Stikhina; tenors Daniel Johansson and Piero Pretti; and baritone Elliot Madore.
- Five members of the CSO appear as soloists this season including Concertmaster Robert Chen, Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong, Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen, Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh, and Bass Clarinet J. Lawrie Bloom.

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) brings leading artists and ensembles to Chicago. For the upcoming season the SCP Piano and Chamber music series offer programming that shares in the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration of Ludwig van Beethoven including the presentation of the complete piano sonatas featuring keyboard luminaries

and a range of the composer’s most powerful chamber music works. The SCP Orchestras series welcomes two orchestras from a single Canadian city—the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal, led by Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, led by Kent Nagano—and Poland’s NFM Wrocław Philharmonic Orchestra, led by music director Giancarlo Guerrero.

The programs of the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2019/20 complement the CSO’s subscription programs and demonstrate the commitment of Music Director Riccardo Muti and the CSOA to develop new audiences, nurture young musicians, provide broad access to the Orchestra, and to serve the city of Chicago through music. The Institute also leads programs developed for its More Peaceful Chicago Initiative that connect to areas of our community impacted by gun violence. The 2019/20 season also marks the conclusion of special celebrations for the centennials of both the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and series of concerts for children that were created in 1919.

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# Chicago Symphony Orchestra Programs

## Concerts with Riccardo Muti

Riccardo Muti leads 10 weeks of subscription programs in 2019/20, his 10<sup>th</sup> season as music director. In addition, he conducts the annual Symphony Ball gala program and a free community concert, tour performances, and makes a return appearance at Wheaton College as part of the Orchestra's fourth annual concert series at that venue.

As a focal point of the season-long Beethoven 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration, Muti's programs include a complete cycle of the nine Beethoven symphonies performed across the season, as well as the Violin Concerto with Leonidas Kavakos, and the *Consecration of the House* and *The Ruins of Athens* overtures.

Muti's concerts offer wide-ranging repertoire by Nicolas Bacri, Brahms, Grieg, Mascagni, Missy Mazzoli; Mendelssohn, Florence Price, Bernard Rands, Suppé, Schumann, Scriabin, Shostakovich, Stravinsky, William Grant Still, Tchaikovsky, Verdi; and Wagner.

Muti explores lesser-known works, leading the CSO's first performances of Florence Price's Symphony No. 3 and William Grant Still's *Mother and Child*. He also leads the world premiere performances of new works by Nicolas Bacri, Missy Mazzoli, and Bernard Rands.

Muti leads the CSO, the Chicago Symphony Chorus and soloists in Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

This season, Muti works with soloists Leif Ove Andsnes, piano; Leonidas Kavakos, violin; Julia Fischer, violin; Anita Rachvelishvili, mezzo-soprano; and Luca Salsi, baritone. He works with several artists who make their CSO debuts including Piero Pretti, tenor; Elena Stikhina, soprano; Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo-soprano; Daniel Johansson, tenor; as well as Franz-Josef Selig, bass, who makes his CSO subscription debut under Muti.

- Riccardo Muti opens his 10th season as Music Director with a program that includes Mendelssohn's *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage Overture* followed by a performance of Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto with acclaimed Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes. Scriabin's *Rêverie* and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 6 complete the program. (September 19 and 20)
- Muti's second week inaugurates the Orchestra's season-long Beethoven celebration. It unites two of the composer's revolutionary early symphonies with a late overture. The ambitious, youthful First Symphony is paired with the Third Symphony (*Eroica*). The program opens with Beethoven's *Consecration of the House* overture. (September 26, 27, and 28)
- In November, Muti collaborates with celebrated violinist Leonidas Kavakos in Beethoven's Violin Concerto. He also leads the world premiere of a CSO-commissioned work by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Bernard Rands. Completing the program is Stravinsky's colorful Divertimento from the ballet *The Fairy's Kiss*. (November 1, 2, and 5)

- Muti's second November program links three of Germany's most renowned Romantic composers. Wagner and Schumann paint musical portraits of different bodies of water, the windswept Norwegian coastline in Wagner's Overture to *The Flying Dutchman* and the river Rhine in Schumann's Symphony No. 3. CSO Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong and Assistant Principal Cello Kenneth Olsen are featured in Brahms's *Double Concerto*. (November 7, 9, and 12)
- Muti returns to the CSO in February for a concert performance of Pietro Mascagni's one-act operatic masterpiece, *Cavalleria rusticana*. A sensation at its 1890 premiere, Mascagni's work ushered in the Italian "verismo" style of opera and its power and popularity remains undimmed. Muti and the CSO are joined by the Chicago Symphony Chorus and a cast of distinguished international soloists including Anita Rachvelishvili (mezzo-soprano), Piero Pretti (tenor) and Luca Salsi (baritone). (February 6, 7, and 8, 2020)
- For his second February program, Muti continues his exploration of Beethoven's symphonies with two contrasting works, the Second Symphony, inspired by Beethoven's mentor Haydn, and the Fifth Symphony. The CSO's Bass Clarinet, J. Lawrie Bloom, performs the world premiere of Nicolas Bacri's *Ophelia's Tears*, a concerto for Bass Clarinet commissioned by the CSO. (February 20, 21, 22, and 23, 2020)
- Muti is joined in April by renowned violinist Julia Fischer for the Violin Concerto by Brahms. The remainder of the program is given to two CSO premieres. The CSO gave Florence Price's Symphony No. 1 its world premiere in 1933, and in 2020 Muti leads the Orchestra's first performances of the composer's expressive Third Symphony. William Grant Still's work for string orchestra, *Mother and Child*, also is featured on this program. (April 23, 24, 25, and 28, 2020)
- The following week, Muti's Beethoven symphony cycle moves closer to its apex with performances of the Fourth Symphony in B-flat major and Seventh Symphony in A major. Opening the concert is the world premiere of *Orpheus Undone* by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli. (April 30, May 1, 2, and 3, 2020)
- Muti returns in June to complete his cycle of Beethoven symphonies. The open landscape of the Symphony No. 6 (*Pastoral*) is paired with Beethoven's Symphony No. 8. These are Muti and the CSO's first performances together of the Sixth Symphony. The rarely performed Overture to *The Ruins of Athens* completes this program. (June 11, 12, and 13, 2020)
- Muti concludes his Beethoven cycle in a season finale performance of the Ninth Symphony. This work has resounded throughout the two centuries since its composition, and Muti returns to the work with the CSO and Chicago Symphony Chorus for the first time since 2014. Renowned singers Elena Stikhina (soprano), Jennifer Johnson Cano (mezzo-soprano), and Daniel Johansson (tenor), make their CSO debut in these performances with bass Franz-Josef Selig making his subscription concert debut. (June 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2020)

In addition, Muti conducts two special concerts:

- Riccardo Muti's 10th Symphony Ball program highlights music from Europe and Russia. Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, a regular performer on the Symphony Center stage, performs fellow countryman Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto. Completing the program are works including Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* along with overtures by Verdi and Suppé. (September 21)
- Riccardo Muti and the CSO, demonstrating their commitment to bringing great music to different corners of the city, perform an all-Prokofiev program in a free community concert at Lane Tech College Prep High School, their second appearance at the school. (September 24)

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 2020 tour to Europe, marking their seventh trip to Europe together since Muti was appointed music director and the Orchestra's 34<sup>th</sup> European tour. The tour in January 2020 includes performances in Vienna that are part of a celebration marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famed Musikverein. The Orchestra also performs in cities including Cologne, Paris and Naples. Additional tour information will be announced at a later date.

Muti also leads the CSO in a 2020 tour to Florida, marking their third trip to Florida together. The Orchestra makes a return appearance in West Palm Beach on February 10, 2020 and enters the second of a three-year residency with Artis—Naples with performances on February 13 and 15, 2020. Muti and the CSO make their first appearance together in Sarasota in a concert on February 12, 2020. Additional tour information will be announced at a later date.

Muti and the CSO also perform two concerts at Carnegie Hall, New York, in November 2019. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra has performed at Carnegie Hall more than 130 times since its debut in 1898. The most recent performances by Muti and the CSO were in February 2018 as part of an East Coast tour.

- Muti and the Orchestra will perform Bizet's *Roma*, Berlioz's *The Death of Cleopatra* featuring mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato as soloist and Respighi's *Pines of Rome*. (November 15)
- Muti and the Orchestra will perform selections from Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet* and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 3. (November 16)

Bank of America is the International Tour Sponsor of the CSO.

### **Beethoven at 250**

In 2020, the world marks the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of classical music's singular artists, Ludwig van Beethoven. Born in 1770, the composer influenced the development of music in remarkable and powerful ways. Throughout the upcoming season, Music Director Riccardo Muti and the CSO and a range of guest artists explore the musical genius of Beethoven. Works by Ludwig van Beethoven featured on CSO subscription concerts and select SCP presentations are noted below.

- Muti and the Orchestra perform Beethoven's First and Third (*Eroica*) symphonies, their first performances together of these early symphonies. (September 26, 27, and 28)
- Muti leads the CSO and violinist Leonidas Kavakos in Beethoven's Violin Concerto. A world premiere work by Bernard Rands and Stravinsky's Divertimento from *The Fairy's Kiss* rounds out the program. (November 1, 2, and 5)
- Guest conductor Sir Andrew Davis joins the Orchestra and pianist Paul Lewis for Beethoven's Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 4. (January 30 and 31, February 1 and 4, 2020)
- Muti conducts the Second Symphony and the iconic Fifth Symphony that opens with the most recognizable four notes in classical music. (February 20, 21, 22, and 23, 2020)
- Muti and the Orchestra perform Beethoven's Fourth and Seventh symphonies. (April 30, May 1, 2, and 3, 2020)
- Guest conductor Susanna Mälkki directs the Orchestra in Beethoven's *Namensfeier* Overture and *Ah! perfido*, featuring soprano Camilla Tilling. (May 28, 29, and 30, 2020)
- Muti returns in June to direct Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 (*Pastoral*) and Symphony No. 8. *The Ruins of Athens* overture completes the program. (June 11, 12, and 13, 2020)
- Muti concludes his Beethoven symphony cycle with the Orchestra and Chorus and caps the season with a performance of the mighty Ninth Symphony. Renowned singers Elena Stikhina (mezzo-soprano), Jennifer Johnson Cano (mezzo-soprano), Daniel Johansson (tenor), make their CSO debuts in these performances with bass Franz-Josef Selig making his subscription debut. (June 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2020)

Beyond the CSO's subscription concert programming for this year's Beethoven celebration, the Symphony Center Presents series will include performances of the complete Beethoven piano sonatas and some of the composer's most significant chamber music works. Complete Beethoven 250 programming information for CSO and SCP concerts is available at [cso.org/Beethoven250](http://cso.org/Beethoven250).

### **Chicago Symphony Chorus**

The Chicago Symphony Chorus (CSC) is under the leadership of Chorus Director and Conductor Duain Wolfe. For 2019/20, the CSC appears with the Orchestra twice under the baton of Riccardo Muti, as well as with guest conductors Juanjo Mena and Alain Altinoglu. Season highlights include performances of Pietro Mascagni's one-act operatic masterpiece, *Cavalleria rusticana*, Carl Orff's powerful *Carmina burana*, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

- Guest conductor Juanjo Mena returns to direct the CSO and Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus in Holst's *The Planets*. The program also includes James Lee III's *Sukkot Through Orion's Nebula*, and Two Scenes from Samuel Barber's opera *Antony and Cleopatra* with soprano Sally Matthews.. (November 21, 22, 23, and 24)
- Muti returns to the CSO in February for a concert performance of Pietro Mascagni's one-act operatic masterpiece, *Cavalleria rusticana*. Muti is joined by the CSO Chorus and a cast comprising some of the world's most distinguished international vocalists. (February 6, 7, and 8, 2020)

- Guest conductor Alain Altinoglu leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Chorus, and the Chicago Children's Choir in a performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina burana* with soloists Elena Sancho-Pereg, soprano; Benjamin Bliss, tenor and Elliot Madore, baritone. The program also includes Saint-Saëns's *Danse macabre*, and Roussel's Suite No. 2 from *Bacchus et Ariane*. (May 7, 8, and 9, 2020)
- Muti concludes his Beethoven cycle and caps the season with a performance of the mighty Ninth Symphony. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus is joined by renowned singers Elena Stikhina (soprano), Jennifer Johnson Cano (mezzo-soprano), Daniel Johansson (tenor), who make their CSO debut in these performances, and bass Franz-Josef Selig, making his subscription debut. (June 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2020).

### Wheaton College Series

Now in its fourth season, the series of three concerts at Wheaton College's Edman Memorial Chapel in Wheaton, IL, has regularly attracted capacity audiences. In 2019/20, guest conductors Juanjo Mena and Hannu Lintu make their debut appearances on the series. The CSO's concerts at Wheaton College are generously sponsored by the the JCS Arts, Health and Education Fund of the DuPage Foundation..

- Guest conductor Juanjo Mena lead a program that includes Holst's *The Planets* with the Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and American composer James Lee III's *Sukkot Through Orion's Nebula*. Soprano Sally Matthews makes her CSO debut in two scenes from Samuel Barber's opera *Antony and Cleopatra*, both CSO premieres. (November 22)
- Guest conductor Hannu Lintu leads a program of Nordic treasures. Sibelius's *Finlandia* and Symphony No. 5 are paired with Nielsen's Violin Concerto featuring soloist Pekka Kuusisto and the *Helios* Overture. (February 28, 2020)
- In celebration of Beethoven's 250th birthday, Riccardo Muti brings two of the composer's symphonies to Wheaton, the intimate Fourth Symphony and the dance-like Seventh Symphony. Opening the concert is the orchestral suite *Orpheus Undone* by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli, (May 1, 2020)

### MusicNOW

Launched in 1998 to explore the richness and variety of contemporary classical music, the CSOA's MusicNOW series marks its 22<sup>nd</sup> season in 2019/20 and is curated by CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli. Four concerts at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance are performed by CSO musicians and guest performers. Performances take place on October 7; December 2; March 23, 2020, and May 18, 2020.

Missy Mazzoli was appointed Mead Composer-in-Residence in 2018 by Music Director Riccardo Muti and continues in the role through 2020. Recently called "one of the more consistently inventive, surprising composers" by *The New York Times*, Mazzoli curates her second series for MusicNOW in the 2019/20 season.

"I've always wanted to curate," Mazzoli said. "I've always had so many ideas in my back pocket about whom I

would champion given the chance. So this opportunity is a perfect fit for that.” In her first season, 2018/19, Mazzoli chose to focus on three aspects in particular: to spotlight composers new to the series, to focus on Chicago composers, and to promote the work of female composers. For the 2019/20 series, the focus on new and unexpected voices continues and includes world premieres for a vocal quartet and instrumentalists by composer Courtney Bryan, as well as a newly commissioned fanfare by Chicago composer Wang Lu.

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

Program highlights for the 2019/20 MusicNOW series are listed below with full programming to be announced at later date.

- October 7, 2019: The MusicNOW season opens with the world premiere of a newly commissioned fanfare by Chicago-based phenom Wang Lu, with additional works by rising star and musical polymath LJ White and many others. Commissioned by the Edward F. Schmidt Family Commissioning Fund.
- December 2, 2019: MusicNOW presents works by established composer Michael Gordon and additional works by emerging composers that he has influenced.
- March 23, 2020: MusicNOW welcomes special guests Quince Ensemble, “the Anonymous 4 of new music” (*Opera News*), for the world premiere of a major new work commissioned by the CSO for the MusicNOW series written specifically for Quince and CSO musicians by composer Courtney Bryan. Quince will perform additional works by Gilda Lyons, David Reminick and others.
- May 18, 2020: MusicNOW celebrates the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chicago’s own Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), founded in May 1965. The AACM pays homage to the diverse styles of expression within the body of Black Music in the USA, Africa and throughout the world, an experience that extends from ancient traditions to music of the future. On May 18, the CSO will honor the organization’s important history and its profound impact on modern music.

### **World and U.S. Premieres**

The CSO has commissioned, and gives world premiere performances of works by French composer Nicolas Bacri, American composer Missy Mazzoli and British-American composer Bernard Rands. In addition, the CSO gives the U.S. premiere of Israeli composer Avner Dorman’s percussion concerto, *Eternal Rhythm*.

- Avner Dorman has looked to the connection between humans and rhythm for his new percussion concerto, *Eternal Rhythm*. CSO Principal Percussionist Cynthia Yeh gives the U.S. Premiere of the work. (October 3, 4, and 5)
- Pulitzer Prize–winning composer Bernard Rands is a legendary figure in new classical music, with more than 100 published works and many recordings. His music is meticulously crafted, yet always possesses a dramatic intensity. He has worked with the world’s finest orchestras and musicians, and his new work was commissioned by the Edward F. Schmidt Family Commissioning Fund for the CSO, and its premiere will be conducted by Riccardo Muti. (November 1, 2, and 5).

- Nicolas Bacri is a French composer whose music is performed by some of world's finest musicians across Europe, but is relatively unknown in America. His new Concerto for Bass Clarinet, *Ophelia's Tears*, was written for CSO Bass Clarinet J. Lawrie Bloom and commissioned by the CSO. Riccardo Muti leads the world premiere performances. (February 20, 21, 22, and 23, 2020)
- Appointed CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence in 2018, Missy Mazzoli is one of today's most accomplished and innovative American composers. Her work delivers a raw emotional authenticity that has garnered the attention of audiences and critics alike. Other credits include her past role as Composer-in-Residence with Opera Philadelphia, and composing a third opera, *Proving Up*, which was commissioned by Washington National Opera, Opera Omaha, and New York's Miller Theatre. Her orchestral suite, *Orpheus Undone* was commissioned by the CSO, and its premiere will be conducted by Riccardo Muti. (April 30, May 1, 2, and 3, 2020)

### **First Performances**

In addition to world premieres, the CSO performs 18 works for the first time during the 2019/20 season:

- Thomas Adès: Dances from *Powder Her Face* (April 2, 3, and 4, 2020)
- Samuel Barber: Two Scenes from *Antony and Cleopatra* (November 21, 22, 23, and 24)
- Mason Bates: *Resurrexit* (December 12, 13, and 14)
- G.F. Handel: Who calls my parting soul from *Esther* (March 26, 27, and 28, 2020)
- G.F. Handel: Rompo I lacci from *Flavio* (March 26, 27, and 28, 2020)
- G.F. Handel: Da tempeste from *Giulio Cesare* (March 26, 27, and 28, 2020)
- G.F. Handel: Ombra cara from *Radamisto* (March 26, 27, and 28, 2020)
- G.F. Handel: To thee thou glorious son from *Theodora* (March 26, 27, and 28, 2020)
- Jennifer Higdon: *blue cathedral* (December 5, 6, 7, and 10)
- James Lee III: *Sukkot Through Orion's Nebula* (November 21, 22, 23, and 24)
- Astor Piazzolla/Desyatnikov: *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* (October 17, 18, 19, and 20)
- Florence Price: Symphony No. 3 in C Minor (April 23, 24, 25, and 28, 2020)
- Alexander Scriabin: *Rêverie* (September 19 and 20, 2019)
- William Grant Still: *Mother and Child* (April 23, 24, 25, and 28, 2020)
- J. Strauss, Jr: *Furioso* Polka, Op. 260 (December 12, 13, and 14)
- Sir Michael Tippett: Little Music for String Orchestra (January 30, 31, February 1, and 4, 2020)
- Sir Michael Tippett: Praeludium for Brass, Bells, and Percussion (January 30, 31, February 1, and 4, 2020)

- Henryk Wieniawski: Violin Concerto No. 1 in F-sharp Minor, Op. 14 (December 5, 6, 7, and 10)

## Debuts

Several conductors and guest artists make debuts with the CSO during the 2019/20 season:

- Sunwook Kim, piano, was born in Korea and came to international recognition when he won the prestigious Leeds International Piano Competition in 2006, aged 18. Since then he has established a reputation as one of the finest young pianists, appearing as soloist with some of the world's leading orchestras. He makes his CSO debut in Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 and *Capriccio brillante*, under the baton of guest conductor Kirill Karabits (October 10, 11, and 12)
- Ukrainian conductor Kirill Karabits celebrated his 10th anniversary as Chief Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra during the 2018/19 season. Karabits is also Music Director of the German National Theater and Staatskapelle Weimar, and has worked with many of the leading ensembles of Europe, Asia, and North America. He makes his CSO subscription debut in a program of Prokofiev, Mendelssohn and Lutosławski. (October 10, 11, and 12)
- Violinist, violist, and conductor Julian Rachlin is one of the most respected musicians of his generation. For 30 years he has performed as soloist with the world's leading conductors and orchestras. Recently he has achieved renown as a conductor, and is currently Principal Guest Conductor of the Royal Northern Sinfonia, Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, and Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra. He makes his CSO conducting debut in a program that includes *Four Seasons* by both Vivaldi and Astor Piazzolla. (October 17, 18, 19, and 20)
- English soprano Sally Matthews has appeared regularly at opera houses across Europe, in roles by Stravinsky, Mozart, and Strauss. Matthews also sings with orchestras including the Philharmonia, London Symphony, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, and Bavarian Radio Symphony. She makes her CSO debut in Two Scenes from Samuel Barber's opera *Antony and Cleopatra*, led by guest conductor Juanjo Mena. (November 21, 22, 23, and 24)
- Violinist Ray Chen first came to international attention after winning the Yehudi Menuhin (2008) and Queen Elisabeth (2009) competitions. Since then, he has performed across the world, building a profile in Europe, Asia, and the USA as well as his native Australia both live and on disc. He makes his CSO subscription debut in Wieniawski's Violin Concerto No. 1, on a program directed by John Storgårds. (December 5, 6, 7, and 10)
- Canadian pianist Jan Lisiecki has won acclaim for his interpretive maturity, distinctive sound, and poetic sensibility. "Going into a concert hall should be like going into a sanctuary," Lisiecki has said. The 23-year-old pianist is particularly known for his interpretations of Chopin and Schumann. He debuts with the CSO in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21, conducted by Manfred Honeck. (December 12, 13, and 14)
- Piero Pretti, tenor, is renowned for his work in operas by Puccini and Verdi. Recently, he has appeared in *Madama Butterfly* in Bilbao, Turin, at the Vienna Staatsoper and the Paris Opera, and at the Bayerische Staatsoper. He makes his CSO debut under the baton of Riccardo Muti in Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*. (February 6, 7, and 8, 2020)

- Violinist Pekka Kuusisto brings energy, humor, and a risk-taking spirit to anything he plays. Kuusisto is the Artistic Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra Collective, and an Artistic Partner with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. He makes his CSO debut with Nielsen's Violin Concerto, led by guest conductor Hannu Lintu. (February 27, 28, and 29, 2020)
- Guest conductor Hannu Lintu is in his sixth year as Chief Conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. He regularly directs orchestra across the world, and is a particular champion of artists and composers from his homeland, Finland. He makes his CSO debut with Sibelius's *Finlandia* and Symphony No. 5, and Nielsen's Violin Concerto (with Pekka Kuusisto) and *Helios Overture*. (February 27, 28, and 29, 2020)
- Pianist Bertrand Chamayou is one of France's foremost pianists. His originality is recognized across a vast repertoire, and he has undertaken 'marathon' recitals of the complete works of Ravel, and Messiaen's *Vingt regards sur l'enfant-Jésus*. He makes his CSO debut in Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23. (March 5, 6, and 7, 2020)
- Guest conductor André de Ridder is at home in a whole range of musical genres, but has established a reputation as a conductor of new classical music, working with orchestras in England and across Europe. He makes his CSO subscription debut with a program that includes Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, *A Symphonic Picture*, and Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major and *Boléro*. (March 12, 14, and 17, 2020)
- Iestyn Davies is a British countertenor widely recognized as one of the world's finest singers. Celebrated for the beauty and dexterity of his voice and for his intelligent musicianship, Davies is equally at home in baroque music as well as contemporary opera. He makes his CSO debut in arias from Handel's operas and oratorios, in a concert directed by Nicholas Kraemer. (March 26, 27, and 28, 2020)
- Grammy-nominated German pianist Joseph Moog combines technical skill with a mature and intelligent musicality. Moog is a champion of both masterworks and rare repertoire, and regularly appears with the finest orchestras across Europe. He makes his debut in Strauss's *Burlesque*, directed by Emmanuel Krivine. (April 16, 17, 18, and 21, 2020)
- American tenor Benjamin Bliss is a 2016 recipient of the Martin E. Segal award at Lincoln Center, awarded by the Metropolitan Opera. Renowned particularly for his interpretation of operas by Mozart, he made his Met debut in *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. He makes his CSO debut in Orff's *Carmina burana*, conducted by Alain Altinoglu. (May 7, 8, and 9, 2020)
- Canadian baritone Elliot Madore has been recognized for his performances as Pelléas in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, performing the role on several continents. Madore is a fast-rising star, having made recent debut appearances across Europe and the US in a varied range of operas. He makes his CSO debut in Orff's *Carmina burana*, conducted by Alain Altinoglu. (May 7, 8, and 9, 2020)
- Soprano Elena Sancho-Pereg is attracting attention across the opera world. Last year she was named "Young Artist of the Year" by *Opernwelt* and *Opera Actual* magazines, and she has made recent debuts at the Bavarian State Opera and Rome Opera, among others. She makes her CSO debut in Orff's *Carmina burana*, conducted by Alain Altinoglu. (May 7, 8, and 9, 2020)

- Conductor Jonathan Stockhammer has worked on an equal footing with a variety of performers—whether young musicians and rappers, orchestra musicians or the Pet Shop Boys. He makes his CSO debut with an all-Tchaikovsky program, including *Capriccio italien*, the Violin Concerto featuring CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen as soloist, *Marche slave*, and selections from *The Nutcracker*. (May 14 and 16, 2020)
- Pianist Beatrice Rana made her solo debut on the SCP Piano series in the 2018/19 season. Born in Italy into a family of musicians, Rana is renowned on the international classical music scene for her bold and fresh musical approach. She makes her CSO debut in Bach’s Keyboard Concerto No. 1 in D Minor and Keyboard Concerto No. 5 in F Minor, conducted by Bernard Labadie. (May 21, 22, 23, and 26, 2020)
- American mezzo-soprano Jennifer Johnson Cano has given over 100 performances at the Metropolitan Opera, recently in operas by Wagner and Verdi. A naturally gifted singer noted for her commanding stage presence and profound artistry, she is also a dedicated recitalist and chamber musician. Cano makes her CSO debut in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, conducted by Riccardo Muti. (June 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2020)
- Daniel Johansson, tenor, was born and trained in Sweden, and has had a very successful career in his homeland, including being named Court singer by the Swedish King in June 2018. Recently he has appeared across Europe, particularly in operas by Wagner and Strauss. He makes his CSO debut in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, conducted by Riccardo Muti. (June 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2020)
- German bass Franz-Josef Selig has established himself as one of the best-known performers of “serious” bass roles by Wagner, Mozart, and Verdi. He has performed at opera houses across Germany, Europe, and the US. Chicago audiences last heard him at Lyric Opera in *The Magic Flute* in 2005. Selig makes his CSO subscription debut in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, conducted by Riccardo Muti. (June 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2020)
- Russian soprano Elena Stikhina makes her debut at the Metropolitan Opera as Suor Angelica in Puccini’s *Il Trittico* in 2018/19. A finalist in Plácido Domingo’s Opera Competition “Operalia,” she continues a close relationship with St. Petersburg’s Mariinsky Theatre. Stikhina makes her CSO debut in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, conducted by Riccardo Muti. (June 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2020)

### **Returning Guest Conductors**

Guest conductors returning to the CSO podium in 2019/20 include:

- James Gaffigan, Chief Conductor of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, returns to direct the U.S. Premiere of Avner Dorman’s *Eternal Rhythm*, performed by CSO Principal Percussionist Cynthia Yeh. Shostakovich’s Eighth Symphony, written in a time of war, traces a compelling path from tragedy to triumph. (October 3, 4, and 5)
- David Afkham, a rising artist who is the Spanish National Orchestra’s Principal Conductor, returns to Orchestra Hall for a program of Haydn’s Symphony No. 44 (“Mourning”), Strauss’s *Death and Transfiguration* and Brahms’s Symphony No. 3. (October 24, 25, 26, and 29)

- Juanjo Mena, Principal Conductor of the Cincinnati May Festival, makes a welcome return for the first time since 2013. Mena directs a program that includes Holst's *The Planets* with the Women of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and American composer James Lee III's *Sukkot Through Orion's Nebula*, a work originally written for the New World Symphony Orchestra. Soprano Sally Matthews makes her CSO debut in two scenes from Samuel Barber's opera *Antony and Cleopatra*. (November 21, 22, 23, and 24)
- John Storgårds, Chief Guest Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Principal Guest Conductor of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra Ottawa, and Artistic Partner of the Münchener Kammerorchester, has a dual career as a conductor and violin virtuoso. He returns to the CSO with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, Jennifer Higdon's *blue cathedral*, and Wieniawski's Violin Concerto No. 1, with soloist Ray Chen. (December 5, 6, 7, and 10)
- Edo de Waart returns to the CSO for a program bursting with exuberance and color. American composer John Adams imagines the murderous Madame Mao dancing a foxtrot in *The Chairman Dances*. Violinist Leila Josefowicz, a regular CSO collaborator, performs Stravinsky's Violin Concerto. The program ends with Dvořák's *Carnival Overture* and the Eighth Symphony. (December 19, 20, 21, and 22)
- Herbert Blomstedt is one of the most respected conductors across the world. He is currently Conductor Laureate of the San Francisco Symphony and Honorary Conductor of seven orchestras. He directs the CSO in a program of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 (with soloist Bertrand Chamayou) and Brahms's Symphony No. 2. (March 5, 6, and 7, 2020)
- Manfred Honeck, Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony, leads a program with a festive selection of waltzes and polkas by Johann Strauss, Jr. and Josef Strauss. Rounding out the program are Mason Bates's *Resurrexit*, inspired by a biblical narrative full of mystery and the supernatural, and Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21, with soloist Jan Lisiecki. (December 12, 13, and 14)
- Sir Andrew Davis, Music Director of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Chief Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, leads a program that contrasts the music of Beethoven with Davis's fellow Englishman, Sir Michael Tippett. Paul Lewis is the soloist for Beethoven's First and Fourth piano concertos, which are performed alongside Tippett's Little Music for string orchestra and Praeludium for brass and percussion. (January 30 and 31, February 1 and 4, 2020)
- Valery Gergiev, Artistic Director of the Mariinsky Theatre and Chief Conductor of the Munich Philharmonic, returns with powerful music of his countryman, Shostakovich. His Symphony No. 7 (*Leningrad*) was seen as a symbol of resistance to the horrors of war, and an elegy for the Russians who lost their lives during that conflict. (March 20 and 22, 2020)
- Conductor and harpsichordist Nicholas Kraemer directs the CSO in music from three baroque composers, Bach, Handel, and Purcell. Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 3 opens a program that includes arias by Handel and Purcell sung by soprano Amanda Forsythe and countertenor Iestyn Davies. The program concludes with Handel's Suite No. 2 from *Water Music*. (March 26, 27, and 28, 2020)
- Jakub Hrůša brings music from his Czech homeland in the form of Dvořák's Piano Concerto, with soloist Martin Helmchen. Hrůša and the CSO perform Thomas Adès's suite from his riotous opera *Powder Her Face*, as well as the magisterial Fourth Symphony by Brahms. (April 2, 3, and 4, 2020)

- Jaap van Zweden, Music Director of the New York Philharmonic, conducts Mahler's monumental Sixth Symphony, a work with which he made his Ravinia debut in 2012. (April 9, 10, and 11, 2020)
- Emmanuel Krivine directs perhaps the most famous French symphony, Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*. Also on the program are works by Richard Strauss: *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks* and *Burlesque*, with pianist Joseph Moog. (April 16, 17, 18, and 21, 2020)
- Alain Altinoglu, who last led the CSO in music by Prokofiev, Poulenc and Gounod, returns with a program that culminates in a performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina burana* with soloists Elena Sancho-Pereg, soprano; Benjamin Bliss, tenor and Elliot Madore, baritone and the Chicago Symphony Chorus. Orff's work is prefaced with two suitably bacchanalian scores, Saint-Saëns's *Danse macabre* and Roussel's Suite No. 2 from *Bacchus et Ariane*. (May 7, 8, and 9, 2020)
- Bernard Labadie is a specialist in works of the baroque and classical period, and brings a program of orchestral works by Haydn, Mozart, and Bach. Mozart's Symphony No. 41 ("Jupiter") caps a concert that also includes two keyboard concertos by Bach, with pianist Beatrice Rana, and opens with Haydn's rarely-performed Overture to his opera *L'isola disabitata*. (May 21, 22, 23, and 26, 2020)
- The heavenly strains of Mahler's Fourth Symphony is part of guest conductor Susanna Mälkki's program with the CSO. The concert opens with Beethoven's *Namensfeier* Overture, followed by Beethoven's concert aria *Ah! perfido*, with soprano Camilla Tilling. (May 28, 29, and 30, 2020)
- When guest conductor Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider last appeared with the CSO in 2017, it was as violin soloist and conductor in a program that comprised Beethoven's Violin Concerto and Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. Szeps-Znaider returns as conductor with a dramatic program of Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides* Overture, Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 17 with soloist Piotr Anderszewski, and Richard Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben*. (June 4, 5, 6 and 9, 2020)

### **Returning Guest Artists**

Guest artists returning to perform with the CSO during the 2019/20 season's subscription series include:

#### **Piano**

Piotr Anderszewski (June 4, 5, 6 and 9, 2020)  
 Leif Ove Andsnes (September 19, 20 and 24)  
 Inon Barnatan (March 12, 14 and 17, 2020)  
 Martin Helmchen (April 2, 3 and 4, 2020)  
 Paul Lewis (January 30 and 31, February 1 and 4, 2020)

#### **Violin**

Robert Chen (May 14 and 16, 2020)  
 Julia Fischer (April 23, 24, 25, and 28, 2020)  
 Stephanie Jeong (November 7, 9 and 12)  
 Leonidas Kavakos (November 1, 2, and 5)  
 Leila Josefowicz (December 19, 20, 21 and 22)  
 Julian Rachlin (October 17, 18, 19, and 20)

### **Cello**

Kenneth Olsen\_(November 7, 9 and 12)

### **Percussion**

Cynthia Yeh (October 3, 4, and 5)

### **Bass Clarinet**

J. Lawrie Bloom (February 20, 21, 22, and 23, 2020)

### **Voice**

Amanda Forsythe, Soprano (March 26, 27 and 28, 2020)

Luca Salsi, Baritone (February 6, 7 and 8, 2020)

Anita Rachvelishvili, Mezzo-Soprano (February 6, 7 and 8, 2020)

Camilla Tilling, Soprano (May 28, 29, and 30, 2020)

## **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.

- *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™*, based on the book by J.K. Rowling, is the fourth installment in the *Harry Potter* franchise. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra plays Patrick Doyle's colorful score. (November 29 and 30, and December 1)
- The classic 1942 film *Casablanca*, directed by Michael Curtiz and starring Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart, features a score by Max Steiner. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Richard Kaufman. (March 13 and 15, 2020)
- *Jurassic Park*, Stephen Spielberg's film will be shown with John Williams's beloved score performed live. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Richard Kaufman. (May 15 and 17, 2020)

## **CSO Radio**

The weekly CSO Radio Broadcast Series is syndicated nationally to more than 450 radio stations, reaching more than 200,000 listeners each week nationwide via the WFMT Radio Network. In 2018, on-demand streaming led to more than 375,000 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. 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 acclaimed 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 2019/20 SCP Jazz series programming details will be announced in April 2019.

## **Symphony Center Presents Piano**

The Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series celebrates keyboard artistry at the highest level. At the heart of the 2019/20 Piano series is a complete cycle of Beethoven's 32 piano sonatas. The piano was the instrument of Beethoven's imagination, and the piano sonata was an essential means for the composer's personal expression.

In addition to the 10 and 5-concert subscription packages available for the SCP Piano series, options to include the entire Beethoven sonata cycle are available. Subscribers to the 10-concert series who wish to enjoy all of the Piano series programming plus all of the Beethoven sonata programming can create a 13-concert package. Additionally, a special 9-concert subscription package of just the performances that make up the complete Beethoven Piano Sonata cycle are available.

The cycle is presented in six Sunday afternoon concerts and three special evening concerts by Kirill Gerstein, Evgeny Kissin, Igor Levit and Maurizio Pollini, as well as Rudolf Buchbinder and Sir András Sciff, each of whom will perform two all-Beethoven sonata programs. Mitsuko Uchida is also featured on the series in an all-Beethoven program that includes the composer's Six Bagatelles and *Diabelli Variations*.

- Kirill Gerstein opens the SCP Piano series with a program of five Beethoven piano sonatas. Gerstein last appeared on the Symphony Center stage performing Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1 with CSO and Riccardo Muti. He returns to perform Piano Sonatas Nos. 2, 4, 16, 19 and 22. (October 13)
- Rudolf Buchbinder returns to perform two programs of Beethoven sonatas. His first concert includes Piano Sonatas Nos. 1, 3, 20 and 23 (*Appassionata*). (November 6) Buchbinder's companion program includes Piano Sonatas No. 5, 6, 7 and 18. The appearance of Rudolf Buchbinder is generously sponsored by JS Charitable Trust. (November 10)
- Sir András Schiff, renowned for his interpretations of Bach and Beethoven, also plays two concerts of Beethoven sonatas. For the first he performs Beethoven Piano Sonatas Nos. 24 (*À Thérèse*), 25, 26 (*Les Adieux*), 27 and 28. (March 29, 2020) Schiff's companion program includes Piano Sonatas Nos. 12, 13 (*Quasi una fantasia*), No. 14 (*Moonlight*) and No. 15 (*Pastoral*). (March 31, 2020)
- Mitsuko Uchida, one of the world's great Beethoven interpreters, brings a program of late Beethoven masterpieces. Uchida will perform Beethoven's Six Bagatelles, Op. 126, and the Thirty-Three Variations on a Waltz by Diabelli, Op. 120. (April 5, 2020)
- Evgeny Kissin, a beloved favorite of the SCP Piano series, brings a program that includes three of Beethoven's most popular works for piano, Sonatas Nos. No. 8 (*Pathétique*), No. 17 (*Tempest*); and No. 21 (*Waldstein*). He also performs Beethoven's "Eroica" Variations, Op. 35. The appearance of Evgeny Kissin is sponsored in part by JS Charitable Trust. (May 10, 2020)
- Igor Levit, who made his Chicago recital debut on the SCP Piano series in 2017, returns with a program of Beethoven piano sonatas. After performing Sonata Nos. 9, 10 and 11 on the first half of the program,

he closes with Beethoven's titan Piano Sonata No. 29 (*Hammerklavier*), widely considered one of the most demanding works for piano. (May 20, 2020)

- Maurizio Pollini, a legend of the piano, returns to the three Beethoven sonatas that brought him worldwide attention in the 1970s, the composer's final three sonatas Nos. 30, 31 and 32 concluding the SCP Piano series Beethoven sonata cycle. (May 24, 2020)

Four further Sunday afternoon concerts on the SCP Piano series will feature George Li and Denis Kozhukhin, who make their SCP Piano series debuts, and return appearances for Yuja Wang, and Daniil Trifonov.

- Internationally acclaimed pianist Yuja Wang returns to Symphony Center for a solo recital. (February 16, 2020)
- Daniil Trifonov most recently appeared on the Symphony Center stage with the CSO and Marin Alsop in Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3. This pianist, renowned for his interpretations of the music of Russian composers, was Gramophone Magazine's Artist of the Year in 2016. For this program, he will perform transcriptions by Brahms, Liszt and Rachmaninov of well-loved works by Bach, as well as Bach's *The Art of the Fugue*. (March 1, 2020)
- Chinese-American pianist George Li is making waves through the music world. Since winning the Silver Medal at the 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition, Li has rapidly established a major international reputation and performs regularly with some of the world's leading orchestras and conductors such as Valery Gergiev, Gustavo Dudamel, Manfred Honeck, and Vassily Petrenko. (April 26, 2020)
- Denis Kozhukhin debuts on the SCP Piano series with a program united around the theme of "songs without words." Kozhukhin performs selections from Mendelssohn's *Songs without Words* and Grieg's *Lyric Pieces*, and selections from Gershwin's *Song-Book* and *Preludes*. The program ends with a solo piano version of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. (June 7, 2020)

### **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 each season.

Highlights of the 2019/20 season include the stellar duo of violinist Christian Tetzlaff and pianist Lars Vogt; all-Beethoven programs by Anne-Sophie Mutter and Lambert Orkis, and the Ax, Kavakos and Ma trio; and Joyce DiDonato with Italian early music ensemble Il Pomo d'Oro.

- Longtime, frequent collaborators, violinist Christian Tetzlaff and pianist Lars Vogt join forces for a program of duo works, including Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 6 in A Major, Op. 30, No. 1, Shostakovich's Violin Sonata, Kurtag's *Tre Pezzi*, and Franck's Violin Sonata. (October 27)
- Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter and her regular duo partner, pianist Lambert Orkis, carry on the 2019/20 season theme, performing three of Beethoven's evergreen works for violin and piano. Mutter and Orkis perform Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 4; No. 5 (*Spring*); and No. 9 in A Major (*Kreutzer*). (January 19, 2020)
- The all-star trio of pianist Emanuel Ax, violinist Leonidas Kavakos, and cellist Yo-Yo Ma return to the SCP Chamber Music series. They present three Beethoven piano trios: Op. 1, No. 3 in C minor; Op. 70, No. 2 in E flat major; and Op. 97 in B-flat Major (*Archduke*). (March 3, 2020)

- Mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, winner of Gramophone's *Recording of the Year & Opera* (2018), returns to Symphony Center with Italian early music ensemble Il Pomo d'Oro, a group made up of the best musicians in the field of historical performance. DiDonato and Il Pomo d'Oro perform a program of baroque arias by Monteverdi, Gluck, Handel and Purcell. (May 31, 2020)

### **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 2019/20, the series features two fine orchestras from one city in Canada, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal, as well as a series debut for Poland's NFM Wrocław Philharmonic.

- Kent Nagano brings the Montreal Symphony Orchestra to Orchestra Hall with a program of color and virtuosity. Denis Matsuev, a virtuoso pianist in the grand Russian tradition, performs Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. The program also includes Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1 (*Classical*) and Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra. (October 15)
- Mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato joins the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal led Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Music Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Artistic Director of the Metropolitan Opera, for Mozart's *Ch'io mi scordi di te* and "Parto Parto" from *La clemenza di Tito*. Nézet-Séguin, who has a committed relationship with his hometown orchestra, also leads the Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal in Bruckner's Fourth Symphony (*Romantic*). (November 19)
- Giancarlo Guerrero became Music director of the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic in 2017. He brings his orchestra to perform Brahms's Symphony No. 1, Lutosławski's Symphonic Variations and Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3, with soloist Piotr Anderszewski. Guerrero is also Music Director of the Nashville Symphony. (January 25, 2020)

### **Special Concerts**

During the 2019/20 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.

- Farruquito is Juan Manuel Fernández Montoya, heir to a renowned Gypsy flamenco dynasty. Montoya was immersed in the purest form of flamenco founded by his grandfather, "El Farruco", one of the greatest dancers in the history of flamenco. This performance marks Farruquito's Symphony Center debut. (October 26)
- In Warner Bros. presents *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony* 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, the world's greatest classic *Looney Tunes* shorts will be screened with original scores performed live by the Warner Bros. Symphony Orchestra. This latest edition features classics like *What's Opera, Doc?* and *The Rabbit of Seville* alongside new animated additions. (January 18, 2020)
- One of the most versatile musical personalities of his generation, Jordi Savall has been researching, teaching and performing early music for more than 50 years. With the period ensemble Hespèrion XXI and the singers from La Capella Reial de Catalunya, he brings a rich program of rediscovered baroque gems from the Iberian peninsula titled *Splendor of the Iberian Baroque: In the time of Lope de Vega & Calderon de la Barca*. (February 9, 2020)
- Soprano and Lyric Opera of Chicago Creative Consultant Renée Fleming is known throughout the

world for her stunning performances in leading opera roles. Here, she joins forces with piano virtuoso and Chicago favorite Evgeny Kissin for a one-night-only recital, Symphony Center Presents and Lyric Opera of Chicago Collaboration. (April 19, 2020)

### **Holiday Programming**

- 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 30)
- 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 3 and 4)
- *Home Alone* is a certified Holiday classic. Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Richard Kaufman, play John Williams’s festive score. (December 6, 7, and 8)
- In its annual winter concert, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass brings an engaging, entertaining program of brass ensemble favorites and special arrangements. (December 18)
- Ring in the holidays at Symphony Center with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s Merry, Merry Chicago! This year’s festive program features Members of the CSO and Chicago Symphony Chorus. And, the program wouldn’t be complete without a visit from a very special guest from the North Pole. (December 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 and 23)

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

Across Chicago and around the world, The Negaunee Music Institute 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 20th century, the Institute was created in 2008 as an umbrella for the CSO's education and engagement programs. Originally called the Institute for Learning, Access 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 2019/20 season, musicians of the CSO participate in a variety of the Institute's programs making direct connections with pre-K through high school-aged students, young musicians, and 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 of Chicago, a program of the Negaunee Music Institute; 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 nearly 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 invited community, senior, student and veterans groups and four led by guest conductors for groups of high school music students.

The 2019/20 season celebrates the 100th anniversary of the CSO's concert series for children. Each family matinee program connects with the season-long theme "Leading Voices," exploring the ways that composers express their identity, beliefs, and experiences through music. The 2019/20 CSO School and Family Concerts series examines unique musical voices that have shaped, and continue to shape the incredible orchestral music we hear.

#### **Leading Voices**

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

Introduce young people to the orchestra with the CSO's fun and engaging concert series for children with the season-long theme of "Leading Voices." These concerts are designed for ages five and up.

##### ***Bold Voices***

Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Ludwig van Beethoven is one of the most influential composers of all time. He changed the sound of the orchestra and responded to tremendous personal challenges by expressing humanity, hope and joy in ways that still inspire listeners today. This concert celebrates the life and legacy of this musical giant.

### ***New Voices***

Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Edwin Outwater conductor

Where does new music come from? Every musical innovation is built on the shoulders of preceding generations of composers. This program focuses on the music of composers who are creating orchestral music in the 21st century.

### ***American Voices***

Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Thomas Wilkins conductor

What is the “American sound”? This concert of music by American composers including Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, and Jessie Montgomery explores the soundscape of our country and the American people.

### **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 2019/20 season for school groups. These take place in conjunction with family matinee concerts on Friday, November 22, Friday, March 27, 2020 and Saturday, May 1, 2020.

### **Once Upon a Symphony, (Saturdays and Mondays) for Children Ages 3 to 5**

Begin a child’s journey into the world of music with performances featuring small ensembles of CSO musicians, vivid storytelling, costumes and multimedia. Perfect for ages 3 to 5. Produced and presented in collaboration with Chicago Children’s Theatre. Two unique programs offered each season with details TBA and performance dates provided below.

Program 1: Saturday, November 9; Monday, November 11; Saturday, December 7; Monday, December 9; and Saturday, February 8, 2020.

Program 2: Saturday, March 7, 2020; Monday, March 9, 2020; Saturday, April 25, 2020; Monday, April 27, 2020; and Saturday, May 16, 2020.

## **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 season includes numerous 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 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 [civicfellows.org](http://civicfellows.org).

## **Subscription and Ticket information**

Subscriptions to traditional curated series, as well as create-your-own series for the 2019/20 season of Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Center Presents concerts are now available, offering savings of up to 39% 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 8, 2019, 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 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, 2019 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 Patron 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 2019/20 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.

Bank of America is the Maestro Residency Presenter and International Tour Sponsor of the CSO.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

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