



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**MUSICNOW HIGHLIGHTS HOMEGROWN COMPOSITIONAL VOICES  
IN PROGRAM “CHICAGO’S OWN”**

**Program Showcases Works by Chicago-Based Composers Including  
Suzanne Farrin, Morgan Krauss, Drew Baker and Sky Macklay**

**CSO Viola Weijing Wang and CSO Cello Katinka Kleijn are Featured  
in Works by Suzanne Farrin and Daniél Bjarnason**

**Monday, November 19, at 7 p.m., at the Harris Theater**

CHICAGO—The 2018/19 season of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s acclaimed MusicNOW series continues with a program on [Monday, November 19, at 7 p.m.](#), at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park (205 E. Randolph, Chicago). Titled “Chicago’s Own” and curated by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Missy Mazzoli, the November 19 program features the works of four rising-star composers with Chicago roots—Suzanne Farrin, Morgan Krauss, Drew Baker and Sky Macklay—as well as Icelandic composer Daniél Bjarnason, who all in their own ways explore the sonic possibilities of traditional classical instruments. CSO Viola Weijing Wang and CSO Cello Katinka Kleijn are featured soloists, and conductor Alan Pierson leads an ensemble of musicians from the CSO and guest musicians.

The program opens with Suzanne Farrin’s *Uscirmi di braccia* (“leave my arms”), from a collection of “songs without words” based on sonnets by the Italian Renaissance poet Petrarch. Scored for viola and bass drum, *Uscirmi di braccia* features CSO Viola Weijing Wang and reflects the lyricism and cadences of the poetry with intimacy and intensity. Following are two works by composers who have studied at Northwestern University: Morgan Krauss and Drew Baker. Krauss’ *destroy the middle* meditates on feelings of entrapment, either by one’s experiences or one’s instrument or voice, and features frenetic punctuated sounds over soft, sustained tones. Baker’s *Charon*, scored for clarinet, violin and cello, takes its name from a boatman who ferries dead souls across the river Acheron to the shores of the underworld. Exploring the theme of transformation, the work transports the listener on that ethereal journey

RICCARDO MUTI  
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL  
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER  
President

YO-YO MA  
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

by gradually morphing a five-note pattern over the course of the seven-minute work. Sky Macklay's string quartet *Many Many Cadences* recontextualizes musical cadences, or chord progressions that conclude phrases, by creating disjointed musical cells that are constantly changing key and register. The program closes with Daníel Bjarnason's three-movement *Bow to string*, for solo cello—performed by CSO Cello Katinka Kleijn—and chamber orchestra. *Bow to string* translates electronic techniques such as delay and distortion to a remarkable acoustic environment. The work evokes alternate feelings of tension and tenderness with its thick harmonies and simple melody layered over violently percussive performance techniques.

Alan Pierson is hailed as “one of the most exciting figures in new music today” by *Fanfare* magazine. He is the artistic director and conductor of the acclaimed ensemble Alarm Will Sound and is principal conductor of the Dublin-based Crash Ensemble, and previously served for three years as the artistic director and conductor of the Brooklyn Philharmonic. Pierson has also appeared as a guest conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, Steve Reich Ensemble, New World Symphony, and The Silk Road Project, among other ensembles. He regularly collaborates with major composers and performers including Yo-Yo Ma, Steve Reich, John Adams, Augusta Read Thomas, David Lang and La Monte Young. Pierson is the co-director of the Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble and has been a visiting faculty conductor at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and the Eastman School of Music.

Weijing Wang joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in March 2012. Prior to joining the CSO, she served as acting associate principal viola for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra from 2009 to 2012. From 2007 to 2009, she served as the youngest principal player ever in the history of the Phoenix Symphony. A native of Shanghai, China, Wang has received numerous awards including the Robertson Award in the Primrose International Viola Competition, second prize in the Chicago National Viola Competition, gold medal in the Shenyang National Viola Competition and third prize in the Beijing National Viola Competition. Wang is a graduate of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music and was a student of CSO Assistant Principal Viola Li-Kuo Chang at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

In addition to her duties with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Dutch cellist Katinka Kleijn is in demand as a soloist and as a performer of new music. She performed with the CSO in Penderecki's Triple Cello Concerto, as well as with The Hague Philharmonic, Chicago Sinfonietta, Illinois Philharmonic, and many others. As a member of the Chicago-based International Contemporary Ensemble she has given many premieres, including the first American performance of *Zona* for solo cello and ensemble by Magnus Lindberg at the Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, and *Eternal Escape* for solo cello by Dai Fujikura. She has performed as a chamber musician with Yo-Yo Ma, Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Christoph Eschenbach and also appeared at the Marlboro Music Festival and on the Symphony Center Presents series. Known for her individual projects, Kleijn presented her solo show *oil-free blush* at the Chicago Humanities Festival and collaborated with the Chicago-based performance art duo *Industry of the Ordinary*, resulting in the highly-acclaimed and publicized work *Intelligence in the Human Machine* by Daniel Dehaan.

Each MusicNOW concert includes an opportunity to hear on-stage remarks from featured composers, as well as to meet with the CSO musicians and composers in an informal setting during post-concert receptions with complimentary food and beverages.

Major support for MusicNOW is generously provided by the Zell Family Foundation, the Sally Mead Hands Foundation, Cindy Sargent, the Julian Family Foundation and The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust.

Special thanks to Helen Meyer and Meyer Sound for graciously donating sound equipment support for MusicNOW.

Tickets for all MusicNOW concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000, online at [cso.org](http://cso.org), or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
MusicNOW**

Harris Theater for Music and Dance  
205 E. Randolph, Chicago

[Monday, November 19, 2018, 7:00 p.m.](#)

**Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Missy Mazzoli**, Mead Composer-in-Residence  
**Alan Pierson**, conductor  
**Weijing Wang**, viola  
**Katinka Kleijn**, cello

FARRIN	<i>Uscirmi di braccia</i>
KRAUSS	<i>destroy the middle</i>
BAKER	<i>Charon</i>
MACKLAY	<i>Many Many Cadences</i>
BJARNASON	<i>Bow to string</i>

Tickets:	\$28, General Admission
	\$15, Students

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**CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence:**

[Missy Mazzoli](#)

**Featured Performers for this Program:**

[Alan Pierson](#)

[Weijing Wang](#)

[Katinka Kleijn](#)

**The Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org](http://www.csosoundsandstories.org)

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of

the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence and Erina Yashima is the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 60 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at [cso.org/radio](http://cso.org/radio). Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [www.cso.org/resound](http://www.cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.