



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS JAZZ SERIES ANNOUNCES PROGRAMMING FOR 2019/20 SEASON

**Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis Returns for Chicago
Residency**

**Centennial of the Births of Jazz Legends Charlie Parker and Nat King Cole, as
well as 25th Anniversary of the End of Apartheid Marked by Special Programs**

**Today's Leading Women in Jazz Featured in a Program by Supergroup Artemis
and Vocalist Jazzmeia Horn**

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces the 2019/20 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series programming. Established in 1994, the 10-concert series is now entering its 26th season with a continued commitment to presenting some of today's most acclaimed and innovative jazz artists.

Highlights of the 2019/20 series include the return of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis for a two-concert residency, a program featuring some of today's leading women in jazz, two concerts featuring South African artists during this season that marks the 25th anniversary of the end of apartheid, as well as programs celebrating the centennial of the births of jazz legends Charlie Parker and Nat King Cole.

In addition to a lineup featuring some of jazz's greatest artists, the 2019/20 season offers a variety of music and projects that showcase local and global influences, introduces Chicago to rising stars, and provides educational opportunities for concertgoers through preconcert conversations and for Chicago-area students to both attend performances and learn directly from jazz legends and innovators.

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Program details for each of the 10 concerts in the 2019/20 SCP Jazz series follow. All SCP Jazz series concerts in the 2019/20 season take place on Fridays at 8:00 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

The 2019/20 season of the SCP Jazz series opens on [Friday, November 1, at 8:00 p.m.](#), with NEA Jazz Master and pianist Chick Corea and his established trio with bassist Christian McBride and drummer Brian Blade, Trilogy. With 26 Grammy Awards among the members of Trilogy, this ensemble features three virtuoso individuals who are stars in their own right. Corea, McBride and Blade exhibit a strong sense of dialogue and sharp dexterity on a program that features original music alongside reinventions of classic Corea compositions and jazz standards.

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, led by its dynamic bandleader and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, returns to Symphony Center for a three-day residency beginning with their SCP Jazz series concert on [Friday, November 15, at 8:00 p.m.](#) Arguably one of the today's greatest jazz bands, the 15-member Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra consists of the finest soloists, ensemble players and arrangers performing today. Their SCP Jazz series program features an electrifying evening of original arrangements and classic jazz selections celebrating global "Jazz Ambassadors" such as Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Dave Brubeck and Louis Armstrong.

After a day filled with educational activities, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Marsalis perform a musical celebration of South African democracy, 25 years after apartheid's end, for a SCP Special Concert on [Saturday, November 16, at 8:00 p.m.](#) New York-based South African vocalists Melanie Scholtz and Vuyo Sotashe join the orchestra to perform South African music, with songs chosen by the guest performers and newly arranged for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. While South Africa has long been a vibrant and unique jazz hub, Scholtz and Sotashe are among the musicians who have helped shape the sound of jazz in the post-apartheid era, reflecting the sound of a nation defining itself anew.

Chicago-based drummer Makaya McCraven makes his Symphony Center and SCP Jazz series debut on [Friday, January 31, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.](#) McCraven brings a musical vision with influences of West African and hip-hop rhythms to his experiments with beats and tape loops of improvised music. For this appearance, McCraven invites several special guests—many with Chicago ties—including trumpeter Marquis Hill, guitarist Jeff Parker, bassist Junius Paul, saxophonist Greg Ward and harpist Brandee Younger to perform a program created for the SCP Jazz series titled *In These Times*. The performance will feature free jazz and improvisation that incorporates the musical experiments these musicians developed in the studio using socio-political themes, and will also feature video of historic footage and spoken word.

On [Friday, February 14, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.](#), the SCP Jazz series continues with a tribute to the legendary singer, pianist and arranger Nat King Cole. With the 2019 centennial of Cole's birth, the SCP Jazz series presents a program developed in collaboration with Chicago Jazz Orchestra bandleader Jeff Lindberg for this performance titled *The Piano Soul of Nat King Cole*, which celebrates Cole's roots in Chicago as a pianist by featuring selections from his Nelson

Riddle Orchestra recording of the same name. Before Cole became known as a vocalist, he was a superlative jazz pianist who found inspiration from Earl Hines on the South Side of Chicago and went on to perform with his unique trio. The Riddle arrangements of Cole's piano works get a fresh take by featuring special guest pianists Kenny Barron and Benny Green in transcriptions for piano and jazz orchestra. The program also pays tribute to Cole's classic trio with performances by these pianists and Russell Malone on guitar and David Wong on bass.

The [Friday, February 28, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.](#), program features pianist Abdullah Ibrahim in his Symphony Center debut with his septet Ekaya, a name that translates to "home." The 84-year-old South African native, who was recognized among the newest class of NEA Jazz Masters at a concert at the Kennedy Center on April 15, has led an accomplished career that includes the founding of South Africa's first premier jazz group, having his 1974 song "Mannenberg" adopted as an anti-apartheid anthem, and releasing more than 65 albums as a leader or co-leader. Ibrahim's rapidly unfolding percussive piano lines reflect the diverse influences of traditional African songs, gospel, blues, bebop and other jazz idioms.

The SFJAZZ Collective returns to Symphony Center on [Saturday, March 21, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.](#), to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Miles Davis' *In a Silent Way* and Sly & the Family Stone's *Stand!* with special guest Dee Dee Bridgewater. *In a Silent Way* was produced by Teo Macero and featured tracks edited and rearranged significantly from the recording session, as well as an electric sound, which divided critics at the time of its release. Over time, critics generally have come to consensus that this experimental album transcends genres and is one of Davis' most influential. A hit from the beginning, Sly & the Family Stone's *Stand!* brought the band commercial success with hits including "Sing a Simple Song," "I Want to Take You Higher" and "Everyday People." In special appearance for this SCP Jazz concert, Grammy Award winning vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater joins the SFJAZZ Collective for this program that reimagines hits from these genre-defying albums in arrangements created by the talented members of the SFJAZZ collective.

To mark the centennial of Charlie Parker's birth in 2020, the SCP Jazz series presents a tribute program titled *Fly Higher: Charlie Parker @ 100* on [Friday, April 3, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.](#) One of the founding voices of bebop in the 1940s and '50s, Parker reinvented jazz through his solos and compositions, creating an impact that reverberates to this day. In paying tribute to Parker, saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa and drummer Terri Lyne Carrington co-direct a group of diverse musicians who have distinctive visions of his legacy with influences spanning from South Asian, Latin and Afrofuturist hip-hop music. Vocalist Charenée Wade, trumpeter Adam O'Farrill, pianist Kris Davis, bassist Larry Grenadier and DJ Kassa Overall join Mahanthappa and Carrington for this program that honors Parker's legacy through strikingly original pieces.

This concert also features the Sean Jones Quartet in their Symphony Center debut. For six years, trumpet phenom Sean Jones held the first chair in the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and then went on to join the SFJAZZ Collective. Pianist Orrin Evans, bassist Luques Curtis and drummer Mark Whitfield Jr. join Jones for this performance, which introduces Chicago audiences to some of the most talented contemporary jazz artists on the scene.

The concert on [Friday, April 17, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.](#), features some of today's leading women in jazz. The new supergroup Artemis allows each member to contribute her own style, resulting in bold takes on jazz standards and striking originals. The ensemble, whose members hail from four different continents, includes Renee Rosnes on piano, Anat Cohen on clarinet, Melissa Aldana on tenor saxophone, Ingrid Jensen on trumpet, Noriko Ueda on bass and Allison Miller on drums. The concert also features Jazzmeia Horn, one of today's up-and-coming female vocalists who has won both the Sarah Vaughan and Thelonious Monk vocal jazz competitions, in her Symphony Center debut. Her 2017 album, *A Social Call*, earned a Grammy nomination and displays her expansive range, sharp phrasing and improvisational skills.

On [Friday, May 1, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.](#), Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Kurt Elling returns to the city where he was born and his career began. After performing in Chicago clubs for several years, Elling released his debut album, *Close Your Eyes*, on Blue Note Records. Since that album release, Elling's warm, rich baritone, sharp timing and vocal technique have revitalized the role of male vocalists in jazz and earned him a Grammy Award and recognition as Best Male Vocalist by the DownBeat Critics and Readers polls, among other accolades. This Symphony Center performance celebrates the 25th anniversary of the release of *Close Your Eyes* with special guests to be announced.

The 2019/20 SCP Jazz series concludes on [Friday, June 7, 2019, at 8:00 p.m.](#), with NEA Jazz Master and five-time Grammy Award winner Dianne Reeves presenting her latest project, *Beleza Brazil*. Reeves' vocal prowess is defined by her improvisational finesse, which she has developed throughout a career that has spanned Brazilian pop music, American Songbook standards and jazz fusion. In her first Symphony Center appearance since 2015, Reeves brings a program she debuted at the 2018 Monterey Jazz Festival that showcases her affinity for Brazilian music with new interpretations of samba and bossa nova favorites from composers such as Dori Caymmi and Antonio Carlos Jobim and features Helio Alves on piano, Romero Lubambo on guitar, Itaguara Brandão on bass and Rafael Barata on drums.

For 2019/20 SCP Jazz series program listings information, click [here](#).

Beyond the 10 concerts in the 2019/20 SCP Jazz series, several Symphony Center Presents Special Concerts have also been announced. As previously mentioned, the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis presents an SCP Special Concert titled the *South African Songbook* on [Saturday, November 16, at 8:00 p.m.](#) Additionally, Bela Fleck, banjo; Zakir Hussain, tabla; and Edgar Meyer, bass, return with special guest Rakesh Chaurasia, bansuri (bamboo flute), on [Sunday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m.](#), and sitar master Anoushka Shankar returns with special guests with a program to celebrate the centenary of Ravi Shankar on [Friday, May 22, 2020, at 8:00 p.m.](#)

As a part of an initiative to provide educational activities for students and patrons, ticketholders are invited to attend preconcert conversations with guest artists and lecturers prior to select concerts. The preconcert conversations, which are funded by the Jan J. Epstein Family

Foundation, will be held at 7 p.m. in Grainger Ballroom unless otherwise noted. The schedule currently includes a conversation with Seton Hawkins, director of public programs and education resources at Jazz at Lincoln Center, on Friday, November 15 and Saturday, November 16; a conversation about Nat King Cole with a speaker to be announced at a later date on Friday, February 14, 2020; a film screening of "A Struggle of Love," a documentary about Abdullah Ibrahim, on February 28, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in Buntrock Hall; a conversation about Charlie Parker with a speaker to be announced at a later date on April 3, 2020; and a conversation about women in jazz with a speaker to be announced at a later date on April 17, 2020. Additional details will be posted to cso.org as they become available.

Subscriptions for the 2019/20 SCP Jazz season in five-concert or 10-concert series are on sale now and begin at \$130. Subscribers to any SCP Jazz series can purchase single tickets to any Special Concerts now. Single tickets for SCP Jazz concerts and Special Concerts go on sale August 9, 2019.

Subscriptions for the 2019/20 Symphony Center Presents Jazz series and tickets to Special Concerts can be purchased by phone at **800-223-7114** or **312-294-3000**, online at cso.org or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and www.csosoundsandstories.org

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence and Erina Yashima is the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice.

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

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

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

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

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