



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

For Immediate Release:
May 15, 2019

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**PIANIST JASON MORAN RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER WITH
MEZZO-SOPRANO ALICIA HALL MORAN FOR SYMPHONY CENTER
PRESENTS JAZZ SERIES COMMISSION AND MIDWEST PREMIERE
OF *TWO WINGS: THE MUSIC OF BLACK AMERICA IN MIGRATION***

**Guest Artists Include Pastor Smokie Norful, Imani Winds,
Kenwood Academy Jazz Band and Margo Jefferson**

Friday, May 24, at 8 p.m.

CHICAGO—On [Friday, May 24, at 8 p.m.](#), pianist and MacArthur Fellow Jason Moran returns to Symphony Center with his wife, mezzo-soprano Alicia Hall Moran, to present the Midwest premiere of *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration*. To celebrate its 25th season, the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series commissioned Moran, who created this new work with his wife to celebrate and honor the tremendous legacy of the Great Migration. The program also features Grammy Award-winning musician and composer Pastor Smokie Norful, the Grammy-nominated Imani Winds, the Kenwood Academy Jazz Band, Pulitzer Prize-winning arts critic Margo Jefferson and many other guest artists. *Two Wings: The Music of Black America in Migration* weaves together a broad spectrum of musical styles to tell the story of the African-Americans who relocated from the South—with Chicago being a key destination—and how their journey shaped American culture.

After recent performances of a similar program at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Jason Moran and Alicia Hall Moran have developed their upcoming Chicago program to focus on the musical styles and Great Migration story of African Americans who came to Chicago. The program features readings alongside musical selections in styles ranging from gospels and spirituals to blues, jazz and avant garde. Pulitzer Prize-winning arts critic and Chicago native Margo Jefferson hosts the program, which also features Grammy Award-winning

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gospel artist Smokie Norful, who serves as senior pastor of Victory Cathedral Worship Center in Bolingbrook and Chicago, and in this concert shares turns at the piano and on vocals with the Morans. Additionally, Moran invited the young musicians of the Kenwood Academy Jazz Band under the direction of Gerald Powell to return for their second SCP Jazz series collaboration following Moran's 2014 *Looks of a Lot*. Other guest artists include the Imani Winds quintet, cellist Seth Parker Woods, pianist Jason Tyson, and guitarists Rico McFarland and Tony Llorens.

Jazz pianist and MacArthur Fellow Jason Moran has been praised for his brilliance as a performer, risk-taker and innovator. Since his critically praised debut album *Soundtrack to Human Motion* (1999), he has released eight other albums with Blue Note, three on Yes Records and three independently. His trio, The Bandwagon, was awarded Downbeat's "Jazz Album of the Year" in 2010 for their album *Ten*. Moran was named Downbeat's "Pianist of the Year" and "Jazz Artist of the Year" in 2010, USA Prudential Fellow by the United States Artists in 2007, and MacArthur Fellow in 2010. His work includes several multimedia art and theatrical installations, including *Looks of a Lot*, a 2014 theatrical co-production with Theaster Gates and the Kenwood Academy Jazz Band, which premiered on the SCP Jazz series.

Mezzo-soprano Alicia Hall Moran is a multi-dimensional artist with success across opera, art, theater and jazz. Moran made her Broadway debut starring in the Tony-winning revival of *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* and has performed in venues across the country, including Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center. Her most recent album, *Here Today* (2017) features new tracks alongside covers of famous standards by Georges Bizet, Billie Holiday and Stevie Wonder. Her productions include *Black Wall Street* (2016), inspired by the Wall Street career of her father, a native Oklahoman, and the Tulsa race riot of 1921, as well as *Breaking Ice*. Moran has received solo commissions from Art Basel Miami, Museum of Modern Art, The Kitchen, Art Institute of Chicago, and the Brooklyn Youth Chorus. Moran and her husband, Jason Moran—both Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellows—have jointly created works for the Venice Biennale, Whitney Biennial, Walker Art Center and Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Centenarian and Chicago historian Timuel Black will give a preconcert talk about Chicago's Great Migration story at 7 p.m. in Grainger Ballroom. All SCP Jazz series subscribers and members of the CSO African-American Network are invited to attend; RSVPs are requested.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Jazz series 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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**Symphony Center Presents
Jazz**

Friday, May 24, at 8:00 p.m.

Jason Moran, piano
Alicia Hall Moran, mezzo-soprano
Pastor Smokie Norful, piano and vocals
Margo Jefferson, host
Seth Parker Woods, cello
Jason Tyson, piano
Rico McFarland, guitar
Tony Llorens, guitar
Imani Winds
Kenwood Academy Jazz Band
Gerald Powell, director

Tickets: \$26-\$83

Featured Artist for this Performance:

Jason Moran, piano

Alicia Hall Moran, mezzo-soprano

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.