



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD AND TAMARA STEFANOVICH RETURN  
TO OPEN THE 2018/19 SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS  
PIANO SERIES**

**Program Features Works by Bartók, Ravel, Birtwistle and Messiaen**

**Sunday, October 28, at 3 p.m.**

CHICAGO—French pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Yugoslavian-born pianist Tamara Stefanovich return to Symphony Center on [Sunday, October 28, at 3 p.m.](#), to open the 2018/19 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series with a program exploring music from the turn of the 20th century and beyond. The collaboration features works for duo piano by Bartók, Ravel and Messiaen, as well as a new work written for the duo by British composer Harrison Birtwistle.

The program opens with Béla Bartók's Seven Pieces from *Mikrokosmos*, adapted from the composer's original solo piano set, which was influenced by Bulgarian and Hungarian folk rhythms and tunes. Following is Maurice Ravel's *Sites auriculaires* (Aural Sites) featuring Latin rhythms and themes that suggest the sound of bells. The program then features a new work, Harrison Birtwistle's *Keyboard Engine*, commissioned for Aimard and Stefanovich by the Aldeburgh Festival, where it received its premiere in June 2018. *Keyboard Engine* displays Birtwistle's fascination with clocks, mechanisms and machines. Oliver Messiaen's *Visions de l'Amen* concludes the program with its thick harmonic textures and a returning "creation" theme present throughout the seven movements. Aimard was mentored by Messiaen and pianist Yvonne Loriod, who performed the piece with Messiaen during the Second World War for its premiere. This performance of the work connects with the CSOA's special 2018/19 programming theme—*A Time for Reflection, A Message of Peace*.

Widely acclaimed as a key figure in the music of our time and as a uniquely significant interpreter of piano repertoire from every age, Pierre-Laurent Aimard enjoys an internationally

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Zell Music Director

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celebrated career. In recognition of a life devoted to the service of music, he was awarded the prestigious International Ernest von Siemens Music Prize in 2017. At the age of 16, Aimard received first prize in the 1973 Messiaen Competition, and three years later he was appointed by Pierre Boulez to become the Ensemble intercontemporain's first solo pianist. Aimard performs throughout the world each season with major orchestras and has closely collaborated with leading contemporary composers such as Boulez, Kurtág and Carter. Aimard has received numerous accolades including a Grammy Award for his recording of Ives' *Concord Sonata and Songs* and a Gramophone Award for his recording of contemporary works by Tristan Murail and George Benjamin with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. Aimard currently serves as faculty at Hochschule Köln and is artist-in-residence at London's Southbank Centre.

Known for captivating interpretations of a wide repertoire, Tamara Stefanovich performs at the world's major concert venues including Carnegie Hall, Berlin Philharmonie, Suntory Hall in Tokyo and London's Royal Albert and Wigmore Halls. Stefanovich has collaborated with conductors such as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Osmo Vänskä, Susanna Mälkki and Vladimir Jurowski, as well as leading composers including Pierre Boulez, Peter Eötvös and György Kurtág. She regularly leads educational projects such as the innovative online project of interactive pedagogical analyses of Boulez' *Notations* and is also the cofounder and curator of a new festival of contemporary piano music for the Portland International Piano Series. Her recent recordings of concertos by György Kurtág with Askol|Schönberg Ensemble led by Reinbert de Leeuw received critical acclaim.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Piano series 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.

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  
Piano**

[Sunday, October 28, at 3:00 p.m.](#)

**Pierre-Laurent Aimard**, piano

**Tamara Stefanovich**, piano

BARTÓK	Seven Pieces from <i>Mikrokosmos</i>
RAVEL	<i>Sites auriculaires</i>
BIRTWISTLE	<i>Keyboard Engine</i> , construction for two pianos
MESSIAEN	<i>Visions de l'Amen</i>

Tickets: \$ 21-\$83

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**Featured Artists for this Performance:**

[Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano](#)

[Tamara Stefanovich, piano](#)

**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 its 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. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO. 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.