**MEDIA ALERT**

MATTHEW WHITAKER QUARTET TO REPLACE ABDULLAH IBRAHIM ON SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS JAZZ SERIES CONCERT

Friday, February 28, at 8:00 p.m.

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces that the Matthew Whitaker Quartet will replace Abdullah Ibrahim for the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series concert on Friday, February 28, at 8:00 p.m. Ibrahim has withdrawn from this engagement due to illness. In addition to the program change, the preconcert film screening of “A Struggle for Love,” a documentary about Abdullah Ibrahim, has been canceled.

Eighteen-year-old American jazz pianist Matthew Whitaker is a musical sensation who has garnered attention on the jazz scene with his standout performances at the Monterey, Newport and New Orleans Jazz festivals. After studying classical piano and drums at the Filomen M. D’Agostino Greenberg Music School in New York City—the only community music school for the blind and visually impaired in the United States—and the Manhattan School of Music’s precollege jazz program, Whitaker enrolled in the jazz studies program at the Juilliard School. At the age of 10, he was invited to perform at Stevie Wonder’s induction into the Apollo Theater’s Hall of Fame and has since gone on to perform on some of nation’s most renowned stages including at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and Jazz at Lincoln Center, as well as in Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa. In 2019, he released his debut album, Now Hear This, to critical acclaim.

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, February 28, at 8:00 p.m.**

**Matthew Whitaker Quartet**

Matthew Whitaker, piano and Hammond B3
Marcos Robinson, guitar
Karim Hutton, bass
Isaiah Johnson, drums

**Tickets:** $28-$89

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**Featured Artist for this Performance:**
Matthew Whitaker, piano

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [cso.org](http://cso.org) and [csosoundsandstories.org](http://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. Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence.

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 62 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.