ONCE UPON A SYMPHONY OPENS FIRST PRODUCTION OF 2019/20 SEASON AT SYMPHONY CENTER IN NOVEMBER

Concert Series for Young Audiences Ages Three to Five Features
Two Productions in 2019/20 Season

The Boy and the Violin: A Brazilian Folktale Opens November 9;
Jack and the Beanstalk Opens March 7

CHICAGO—Once Upon a Symphony, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s family-friendly, multimedia concert series for young audiences ages three to five, opens its 2019/20 season with a production of The Boy and the Violin. The first production of the Saturday matinee series opens in Symphony Center’s Buntrock Hall on November 9 at 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., with additional performances taking place on Saturday, December 7 and Saturday, February 8, 2020. The series continues with Jack and the Beanstalk, performed on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. on March 7, 2020, April 25, 2020, and May 16, 2020.

In The Boy and the Violin, a Brazilian folktale, a young boy sells his possessions to buy a violin. The boy, alone in the world except for his cat, travels and plays music on his new instrument. The sounds of the violin carry throughout the land, and the boy is soon joined by animals who wish to dance to his joyous music. The boy’s life is changed when the king learns of his special gift. Young audiences will experience how music can spread joy and laughter in this folktale as it is brought to life by musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO).
Jack and the Beanstalk is a retelling of the classic fairy tale of a boy who trades his family’s only cow for magic beans. When the beans grow into a giant beanstalk, Jack climbs it and is faced with a fearsome giant who guards gold, treasure and a magic harp. This production of Jack and the Beanstalk uses music to create an unforgettable storytelling experience.

Once Upon a Symphony, a program of the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, is created specifically for children three to five years of age as a first step in a pathway of opportunities for young people to “grow up” with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra by introducing young children to classical music and instruments of the orchestra. These programs feature compelling music performed by members of the CSO – who also have non-musical roles as characters – to help tell these classic stories, complete with enchanting costumes and sets in the inviting and accessible Buntrock Hall at Symphony Center. Once Upon a Symphony programs are produced and presented in collaboration with Chicago Children’s Theatre. Each program includes an actor who guides the storytelling and invites the audience to sing and play along with the musicians.

Preconcert activities begin 45 minutes before each Once Upon a Symphony performance, families are invited to meet the musicians and actors following the performance, and a Chicago-area community music school offers a post-concert “instrument petting zoo” along with information about nearby music classes and lessons. In addition to the weekend family performances, Once Upon a Symphony is also offered on select weekday mornings for preschool groups.

Tickets for all Once Upon a Symphony 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.

For information and group ticket reservations for weekday preschool performance of Once Upon a Symphony, please call 312-294-3076.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

Once Upon a Symphony is produced and presented in collaboration with Chicago Children’s Theatre.

Support of Once Upon a Symphony is provided, in part, by PNC Bank.

# # #
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra
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 61 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.