CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA NAMES ESTEBAN BATALLÁN AS PRINCIPAL TRUMPET

CHICAGO—Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Music Director Riccardo Muti announces the appointment of Esteban Batallán as principal trumpet of the CSO. Batallán will hold The Adolph Herseth Principal Trumpet Chair, endowed by an anonymous benefactor. He recently completed the final phase of the audition process, which included a trial period with Muti and the CSO this month, and he officially steps into the role on September 30, 2019, pending finalization of contract details.

Batallán previously appeared with the CSO as guest principal trumpet on several occasions. He first appeared with the CSO under Riccardo Muti in June 2018 subscription concerts that included performances of Rossini’s Stabat mater. He returned to perform with Muti and the CSO in Verdi’s Requiem on November 2018 subscription concerts, as well as in Tokyo during the 2019 Asia tour. More recently, he performed with Muti and the CSO on its 2019 Florida Tour, as well as in June 2019 for Verdi’s Aida before winning the audition that same month.

Prior to his appointment to the CSO, Batallán served as principal trumpet of the Hong Kong Philharmonic for the 2018/19 season and for the Orchestra of the City of Granada from 2002 to 2018. He also served as the guest principal trumpet with the Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala and the Filarmonica della Scala from 2015 to 2018 in addition to his role as guest principal trumpet of the Royal Orchestra of Seville from 2010 to 2014.

Batallán rose to international acclaim after winning several prestigious competitions including the Jeunesses Musicales of Spain Competition in 2001, Yamaha Xeno National Competition in 2002, the Yamaha International Competition in 2003 and was a prizewinner at the 2006 Maurice...
André International Trumpet Competition. Batallán has also appeared with distinguished orchestras around the world including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and has worked under esteemed conductors including Jaap van Zweden, Zubin Mehta, Bernard Haitink, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Riccardo Chailly, among others.

A native of Barro, Spain, Batallán began his musical studies at the age of seven, continuing his training at the Conservatory of Music in Ponevedra and the Conservatory of Music of Vigo with Javier Viceiro. In 1999, he attended Galicia’s School of Music Studies where he participated in master classes with Javier Simó and he was selected as a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Spain in 2000. Batallán is also a dedicated teacher, having served on the faculty of the Young Academy of the Orchestra of the City of Granada for the past 16 years and leading master classes for groups from the National Youth Orchestra of Spain, the Youth Orchestra of Andalusia, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and Roosevelt University.

The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

The Adolph Herseth Principal Trumpet Chair is endowed by an anonymous benefactor.

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The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and 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 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.