CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SERIES OF CONCERTS FOR CHILDREN OPENS 2019/20 SCHOOL AND FAMILY SERIES

The Series Marks its 100th Anniversary with Opening Concerts Featuring Members of the CSO Led by Former Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice Erina Yashima in an All-Beethoven Program on November 23

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Gives World Premiere Performances of Philharmonia Fantastique, a CSO Co-Commissioned Work by Former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates, on March 18

Thomas Wilkins Returns to Lead Members of the CSO in a Program Featuring Music by American Composers on May 2

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) marks the 100th anniversary of its series of concerts for children on November 20 and opens its 2019/20 season with performances on Friday, November 22, and Saturday, November 23. The concerts in this series, which are offered to school groups during the week and to the public on Saturdays as part of the Family Matinee Series, honor the longstanding tradition of bringing thousands of young people to Symphony Center each year to experience the Orchestra. Under the theme “Leading Voices,” the 2019/20 season features many highlights, including a CSO co-commissioned work by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Mason Bates and the return of former Sir George Solti Conducting Apprentice Erina Yashima.
The season-long theme for the series is “Leading Voices,” which introduces audiences to composers who helped transform orchestral music and examines how composers’ identities, perspectives and experiences shape the music they create. These hour-long educational concerts, presented by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, are designed for families and young audiences ages five and up. Preconcert activities begin one hour before concert time and include fun games exploring the music featured on the concert, performances by young musicians, and hands-on experiences with musical instruments.

The 2019/20 Family Matinee series opens by exploring the legacy of Ludwig van Beethoven on Saturday November 23, at 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. This program, titled Bold Voices, introduces younger audiences to Beethoven’s music during this season in which the CSO celebrates the 250th anniversary of the composer’s birth. The program includes a sampling of Beethoven’s greatest symphonic works, including the beloved “Ode to Joy” from his Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125. Erina Yashima, former CSO Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice, returns to Symphony Center to lead members of the CSO and pianist Yerin Yang, 2018 winner of the Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition, in the first movement of Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3.

The series continues with a program titled New Voices on March 28, 2020, at 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., featuring world premiere performances of a CSO co-commission, previously announced as World’s Greatest Synth and now titled Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra by Mason Bates with writer and director Gary Rydstrom and story artist and animator Jim Capobianco. Edwin Outwater leads the CSO in this groundbreaking piece for live orchestra and animated film, which takes audiences on a visual tour inside the instruments of the orchestra. Bates, who calls this a “dream project,” says that “the work explores the connection between creativity and technology with the help of a capricious Sprite, who flies through instruments as they’re played.” This innovative program is presented in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the CSO’s concerts for young people.

Conductor Thomas Wilkins returns to the series to lead members of the CSO in American Voices on May 2, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Audiences will hear music from past and present American composers including Aaron Copland, Duke Ellington and Jessie Montgomery. The concert features a solo performance by flutist Rosie Wang, winner of the 2019 Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition, of Hanson’s Serenade for Flute, Harp and Strings.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the series, school groups from Chicago Public Schools will receive free concert tickets and bus transportation to and from Symphony Center for the CSO’s School Concerts. This continues an initiative that began in the 2018/19 season to help remove financial barriers that many schools face in bringing students to concerts at Symphony Center.

For information and group ticket reservations for weekday CSO School Concerts, please call 312-294-3076.
Subscriptions for the three-concert series start at $36. More information is available at cso.org/family.

Tickets for all School and Family 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.

CSO School Concerts are sponsored in part by Allstate Insurance Company, the Youth Education Program Sponsor.

Family and School Concerts are made possible with generous support of John Hart and Carol Prins.

Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra is commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, Riccardo Muti, Zell Music Director; made possible through the generous support of Helen Zell.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Family Matinee  
Saturday, November 23, at 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday, November 23, at 12:45 p.m.  
Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Erina Yashima, conductor  
Yerin Yang, piano  

Bold Voices  

Program to include selections from:  
BEETHOVEN  Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67  
BEETHOVEN  Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21  
BEETHOVEN  Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, Op. 37  
BEETHOVEN  Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, Op. 55 (Eroica)  
BEETHOVEN  Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68 (Pastoral)  
BEETHOVEN  Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125  

Tickets: $6-$57
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Family Matinee  
Saturday, March 28, at 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday, March 28, at 12:45 p.m.  

Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Edwin Outwater, conductor  
Gary Rydstrom, writer, director & sound designer  
Jim Capobianco, story & animation supervisor  
Mason Bates, writer, music & electronica  

New Voices: Philharmonia Fantastique  

Program to include:  
BATES Philharmonia Fantastique: The Making of the Orchestra  
[CSO Co-Commission, World Premiere]  

Tickets: $6-$57

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Family Matinee  
Saturday, May 2, at 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday, May 2, at 12:45 p.m.  

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Thomas Wilkins, conductor  
Rosie Wang, flute  

American Voices  

Program to include selections from:  
SCHUMAN New England Triptych  
COPLAND Fanfare for the Common Man  
PRICE Symphony No. 1 in E Minor  
MONTGOMERY Starburst  
HANSON Serenade for Flute, Harp, and Strings, Op. 35  
ELLINGTON Suite from The River  
SIERRA Sinfonía No. 3 (La Salsa)  

Tickets: $6-$57

Featured Conductors and Artists for CSO Family Matinee concerts:  
Erina Yashima, conductor  
Edwin Outwater, conductor  
Thomas Wilkins, conductor  
Yerin Yang, piano  
Mason Bates, composer/electronica  
Gary Rydstrom, writer, director, & sound designer  
Jim Capobianco, story and animation supervisor  
Rosie Wang, flute

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.