CONDUCTOR DAVID AFKHAM RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER TO LEAD CSO IN PROGRAM OF WORKS BY HAYDN, STRAUSS AND BRAHMS

October 24, 25 & 29

CHICAGO—Conductor David Afkham, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Spanish National Orchestra, returns to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in October subscription concerts at Symphony Center on Thursday, October 24, at 8:00 p.m., Friday, October 25, at 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m. The program includes Haydn’s Symphony No. 44 (Mourning), Strauss’s Death and Transfiguration and Brahms’s Symphony No. 3. Afkham and the CSO repeat the program at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign on Saturday, October 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The program opens with Haydn's Symphony No. 44 (Mourning). One of classical music's true innovators, Haydn harnesses artistic ideals inspired by the 18th century's era of Sturm und Drang (“Storm and Stress”), in this work that includes thrilling intensity in its opening and closing movements, as well as the poignant and reflective Adagio, often associated with the work's nickname. The program continues with another work of powerful emotional range, Strauss's tone poem Death and Transfiguration. Musically depicting an artist as he approaches the end of his life, it immerses the listener in episodes of true struggle, joy and resolute calm before reaching a radiant conclusion as the man achieves peace. Brahms's Symphony No. 3 completes the program. Retreating to the German resort town of Wiesbaden to finish his third symphony in 1883, Brahms created a compelling tension between major and minor keys throughout the work, which also features shimmering string passages, delicate interplay among
the winds that evokes sounds of the forest, and heroic brass interludes. Brahms’s Symphony No. 3 has a long history with the CSO; it was one of the first symphonic works to be performed in the Orchestra’s inaugural season in 1892.

Newly appointed as Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Spanish National Orchestra, David Afkham has established himself as one of the most sought-after conductors to emerge from Germany. His past seasons with the Spanish National Orchestra include critically acclaimed performances of the Brahms Requiem, Haydn’s The Creation, Bruckner Symphony No. 9, as well as other grand-scale symphonic works. Internationally, he is in high demand as a guest conductor with some of the world’s finest orchestras and opera houses. Recent highlights include his 2016 debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood, a summer festival tour with the Bamberg Symphony, as well as subscription debuts with the Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony, DSO-Berlin, Philharmonia Orchestra, and Cleveland Orchestra. These performances are Afkham’s first CSO podium appearances since making his subscription debut with the Orchestra in October 2016.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented 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. CSO tickets for select program are also available through the city’s new Teen Arts Pass (TAP) program. More information available at https://teenartspass.urbangateways.org/.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

United Airlines is the official airline of the CSO.

This weekend’s CSO performances are dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth M. Ashton, in grateful recognition of her legacy bequest.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**Thursday, October 24, at 8:00 p.m**  
**Friday, October 25, at 8:00 p.m**  
**Tuesday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m**

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**  
**David Afkham, conductor**

**HAYDN**  
Symphony No. 44 in E minor (*Mourning*)

**R. STRAUSS**  
*Death and Transfiguration*

**BRAHMS**  
Symphony No. 3

**Tickets:**  
$36-$223
**Featured Conductor and Artists for this Performance:**
David Afkham, conductor

The 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 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](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 [cso.org/resound](http://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.