DISTINGUISHED CONDUCTOR HERBERT BLOMSTEDT RETURNS TO LEAD THE CSO IN PROGRAM OF WORKS BY MOZART AND BRAHMS

Program Includes Brahms’s Symphony No. 2 and Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 23 with Bertrand Chamayou as Soloist in his CSO Debut

March 5-7

CHICAGO—Distinguished Swedish Conductor Herbert Blomstedt returns to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in March subscription concerts at Symphony Center on Thursday, March 5, at 8:00 p.m., Friday, March 6, at 1:30 p.m., and Saturday, March 7 at 8:00 p.m. The program includes Brahms’s Symphony No. 2 and Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 23 with 2019 Gramophone Award-winner Bertrand Chamayou as soloist in his CSO debut.

The program opens with Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 23. Composed in 1786, it was among three piano concertos written for a series of concerts where Mozart himself would perform as soloist. The virtuosity, delicacy and drama found in the Piano Concerto No. 23 make it one of the composer’s most widely known and performed among his keyboard concertos. In the work, Mozart trades the brilliance of trumpets, oboes and timpani for flute, clarinets and horns that lend a darker musical timbre to the much of the work, before it concludes with a characteristically cheerful finale. Completing the program is Brahms’s Symphony No. 2. Written during the composer’s summer visit to the Austrian resort town of Pörtschach am Wörthersee, the symphony retains a pastoral quality throughout the work, at times full of radiant and lyrical themes as well as joyful exuberance.

Born in the USA to Swedish parents and educated in Uppsala, New York, Darmstadt and Basel, Conductor Herbert Blomstedt gave his conducting debut in 1954 with the Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and subsequently served as Chief Conductor of the Oslo Philharmonic, the Swedish and Danish Radio Orchestras and the Staatskapelle Dresden. Later, he became
Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony, Chief Conductor of the NDR Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig. His former orchestras in San Francisco, Leipzig, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Dresden as well as the Bamberg Symphony and the NHK Symphony Orchestra all honored him with the title of Conductor Laureate. In addition, Blomstedt holds several Honorary Doctorates, is an elected member of the Royal Swedish Music Academy and was awarded the German Federal Cross of Merit. Blomstedt made his CSO podium debut in 1988 and has returned regularly in the subsequent decades to lead the orchestra.

Pianist Bertrand Chamayou is a regular performer in venues such as the Théâtre des Champs Élysées, Lincoln Center, the Herkulessaal Munich and London’s Wigmore Hall. He has appeared at major festivals including New York’s Mostly Mozart Festival, the Lucerne Festival, Salzburg Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Rheingau Musik Festival and Beethovenfest Bonn. Chamayou is a regular chamber music performer, with partners including Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Quatuor Ébène, Antoine Tamestit and Sol Gabetta. Following his successful performances at Lincoln Center’s Great Performers Series and Salzburg’s Easter Festival, this season sees him perform recitals at Paris Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, London’s Wigmore Hall, Schubertiade Hohenems, Munich’s Prinzregententheater and across Europe. Chamayou has recently been recognized with an ECHO Klassik award for his recording of Ravel’s complete works for piano, as well as the 2019 Gramophone Awards for Best Concerto and overall Recording of the Year for his album featuring the Second and Fifth Piano Concertos of Saint-Saëns with the Orchestre national de France and Emmanuel Krivine.

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.

The appearance of Maestro Herbert Blomstedt is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

United Airlines is the official airline of the CSO.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, March 5, at 8:00 p.m.
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Saturday, March 7, at 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Herbert Blomstedt, conductor
Bertrand Chamayou, piano

MOZART
Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488
BRAHMS
Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Tickets: $32-$222

Featured Conductor and Artists for this Performance:
Herbert Blomstedt
Bertrand Chamayou

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 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. 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.